

12-GAC-13

E-S
135542-13
A V S

JAN -2 1914

Miss Mamie Vilcan,

Through Superintendent Carlisle School.

Madam:

FILED BY C. P. F.

In further reference to your letter of November 2, you are advised that Supt. Friedman has reported that you deserted from your country home in July and were not apprehended and returned to Carlisle until September. Owing to this conduct on your part it was incumbent on the School authorities to look after your interests and your letters were opened with the view of protecting you. A copy of the letter to which you refer has been submitted to the Office. The School authorities returned it to the mother of the writer, after considering its contents.

It is believed that under the circumstances it was for your benefit that these letters were withheld from you. In the future you should abide by the requirements of the Superintendent, and not engage in correspondence which would subject you to criticism.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

FOR FILE

129843/1913

CARLISLE

820

12-GAC-18

E-S
135542-13

A V S

C

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Supt. Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Friedman:

FILED BY C. P. F.

JAN -2 1914
FOR FILE

The Office has received your letter of November 18 with regard to the complaint made by Mamie Vilcan, a student at your school, with reference to her mail having been opened by some of the officers of the school.

In view of the fact that Miss Vilcan is of age it is believed that you should have followed the rules strictly with reference to this matter, thereby avoiding a possible conflict with the law. However, the Office appreciates the motive which prompted your action, and, as you will see, has written her explaining this feature.

The papers inclosed in your letter are herewith returned.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRSE-S
135542-13 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Supt. Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.


My dear Mr. Friedman:

The Office has received your letter of November 18 with regard to the complaint made by Mamie Vilcan, a student at your school, with reference to her mail having been opened by some of the officers of the school.

In view of the fact that Miss Vilcan is of age it is believed that you should have followed the rules strictly with reference to this matter, thereby avoiding a conflict with the law ^{Possible} ~~which is the basis for the regulations~~. However, the Office appreciates the motive which prompted your action and, as you will see, has written her explaining this feature.

The papers enclosed in your letter are herewith returned.

Very truly yours,


Commissioner.

E-S
135542-13 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

Miss Marie Vilcan,

Through Superintendent Carlisle School.

Madam:


FILED BY C. P. F.

In further reference to your letter of November 2, you are advised that Supt. Friedman has reported that you deserted from your country home in July and were not apprehended and returned to Carlisle until September. Owing to this conduct on your part it was incumbent on the School authorities to look after your interests and your letters were opened with the view of protecting you. A copy of the letter to which you refer has been submitted to the Office. The School authorities returned it to the mother of the writer, after considering its contents.

~~While you are of age and your correspondence is not restricted by the School Rules which provide that the officer in charge of a boarding school shall receive and control all mail matter addressed to pupils of the school who are minors, nevertheless~~ It is believed that under the circumstances it was for your benefit that

these letters were withheld from you. However, ^{in the} ~~future~~ you should abide by the ^{requirements of the school} ~~regulations~~ for younger ~~pupils~~, and not engage in correspondence which would subject you to criticism.

Very truly yours,


Commissioner.



Ed-Sch.
129343-13
A V S

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

November 18, 1913



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

Sir:

FILED BY C. P. F.

I have your letter of November 10 enclosing a communication from Mamie Vilcan, a student of this school, with reference to her mail having been opened by the matron. I have made inquiry concerning this matter and find that Mamie Vilcan deserted from her country home in Moorestown, N. J. July 27, 1913, and was not apprehended until September 5, at which time she was returned to the school.


It was felt that she would make another effort to desert, and the matron opened her mail for the girl's protection and in the interests of discipline. The letter which she refers to as having been withheld was one sent by the daughter of an outing patron, which, after being considered, was returned to the patron herself. A copy of this letter, which was retained in the school files, is transmitted herewith.

Ed-Sch
During the spring, when a matter of this kind came up, I issued an order, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. I have again called all those in charge of quarters together, and cautioned them with reference to the matter. I desire to

-2-

call attention, however, to the sentiment expressed by the matron that no distinction should be made between the girls, even though some are of age, as long as they are students of the school. Although I can sympathize with the sentiment, I have cautioned all concerned that the regulations must be followed.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.

MF-BH

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,

(Signed) M. Friedman,

Superintendent.

MF-BH

E.-Schs.
129343-13
A V S

10/10 *evy*
NOV 10 1913

FILED BY C. P. M

FOR FILE

Miss Mamie Vilcan,

Through Sup't Carlisle School.

My Friend:

I have your letter of November 2 in which you complain that your letters are opened by the Superintendent or one of the employees of the school, and that one of your letters was not given to you. I have taken this matter up with the Superintendent and you will be further advised.

Your Friend,

(Signed) Cato Sells
Commissioner.

11-JM-7

Ed.-Sch.
129343-13
A V S

Complaint.

NOV 10 1913

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Supt. Carlisle School.

Sir:

There is inclosed herewith a letter from Mamie Vilcan, pupil of your school, in which she complains that her letters are opened, and that one letter was not given to her.

Section 156 of Rules for the Indian School Service, provides that the officer in charge of the boarding school shall receive and control all mail matter addressed to the pupils of the school who are minors, and shall withhold mail from delivery when, in his opinion, the contents are unmailable, or other improper communications or articles. However, in this instance, the student appears to be of age and the Office would like to have you report concerning her complaint.

Please return to the Office the inclosure with your answer.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Cato Sells
Commissioner.

11-RSS-6

Barlisle, Pa
Nov. 2, 1913

Commissioner of Ind. Affair.

Dear Sir:-

I am writing to you to ask you if you have given Miss Ridenour or Mr Friedman permission to open my letters. Some thing that has never happen all the years I was here before. She has open four letters and one she has never given to me it was seen in the trash box. Now I don't think my news from my friend would interest any one but my self and I am ~~sorry~~ sorry what they write is not any of her business

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
NOV 18 1913
135542

I think that is to
heavy for any thing
it is enough to make
any one mad such
a thing I may be
dumb but not as she
think I am. now you
had better see about
this because if you
dont I will write
home and have some
thing done I am now
21 ~~and~~ and will be 22
in Feb and my own
mother has no right
to open my mail

I am now closing
trusting you will
tell me why she
has to open my
mail.

I am as ever yours
truly Mamie Silcox

I thought it was against
the law to open any
one letters
and if it is the rules
why dont she open
all the other girls
letters