

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

# CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be  
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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

*Asst. Commissioner.*

6-4244

58636-

, 1917.

CAUTION

File No.

820

Ed-Schools  
79110-17  
R H H

2

AUG 25 1917

Mr. R. B. Brown,  
Probate Attorney,  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

My dear Mr. Brown:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 16, in regard to the payment of the expenses for the return of Cora James from the Carlisle School. I will appreciate the arrangement which you say will be made by you and Mr. Howard in this matter.

Very truly yours,

**(Signed) E. B. Meritt**  
Assistant Commissioner.

8-HCB-23

FILED BY I. M. S.



OFFICE OF  
PROBATE ATTORNEY

RUSSELL B. BROWN,  
Probate Attorney,  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

## Department of the Interior

United States Indian Service

Five Civilized Tribes

August 16, 1917

In re:  
Cora James, A-589.  
Expense of return  
from Carlisle, Pa.  
\* \* \* \* \*



AUG 21 1917

EDUCATION-SCHOOLS.



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

Dear Mr. Sells:-

Referring to your letter of June 21st, in regard to the payment of expenses for the return of Cora James, I received this letter just a short time before I left on my leave of absence.

In explanation of the suggestion that Mr. Howard had advised that the County Judge and myself had disapproved the payment of these expenses, will state that Mr. Howard had just returned from taking this girl to Carlisle, creating considerable expense, when he called me up, one day, and said that the girl wanted to return home, and asked if I thought it advisable, and I immediately told him no.

*Each*  
This, however, was before I had any intimation of the fact that it had been determined by yourself and the school authorities to return her home. I thought it was perhaps a whim of a girl which usually results when they get that far from home.

As soon as I received your letter, I took the matter up with Mr. Howard, and he advises me that he will be very glad to reimburse the Carlisle School for the expense of

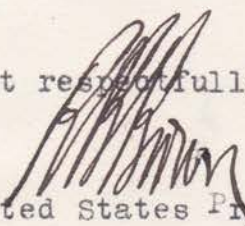
FILED BY J. M. S.

Hon. C. S.....#2.....8-16-17.

transportation, just as soon as he gets sufficient money. Now that the per capita payment is being made, he should have the money at once.

I am very glad you called my attention to this matter, and trust that it will be satisfactorily adjusted.

Most respectfully yours,

  
United States Probate Attorney.

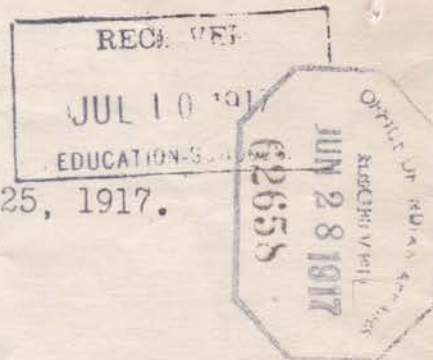
RBB\*L.



**Sigler & Howard**

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA



June 25, 1917.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 21st, which is in reply to my letter of June 8th concerning Cora James, a fourteen year old Choctaw Indian girl recently returned to Ardmore from the Carlisle School, in which you state that you have carefully noted what I have to say regarding the reason for not desiring to pay the return expenses of Miss James. You also state that she was not in any way expelled but that she desired to be sent back to Ardmore, and after looking into the matter carefully you concluded to approve her request. You also express the opinion that it would be proper to pay her expenses, and if the consent of the County Judge is obtained the amount should be forwarded to the Superintendent of the Carlisle School. You conclude by saying that you have written Probate Attorney, Mr. Brown to take the matter up with the County Judge and trust that satisfactory arrangements can be made.

The question of paying her return expenses was not of much consequence, but the question is why was she discharged from the school without a better reason than her "desire to be sent back to Ardmore".

Miss James is out of funds at this particular time, but will probably have money within the next 60 days, and if she does, and I am advised the amount necessary to reimburse the school, I will be glad to do so.

I think the reason that you give that she desired to be sent back to Ardmore is not a sufficient justification, and I have submitted the entire correspondence to Senator Robert L. Owens to ascertain if your action in this matter evidences the government's policy in handling Indian affairs.

Very truly yours,

RAH:SS



Education-  
B S G

File with  
JUN 21 1917

Mr. R. B. Brown,  
probate Attorney,  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

My dear Mr. Brown:

Some time ago Cora James, a fourteen year old Choctaw Indian girl, was transferred from the St. Agnes Academy at Ardmore to the Carlisle School. Recently she requested that she be returned to Ardmore and for administrative reasons this was done. The Superintendent of the Carlisle School took up with her guardian, R. A. Howard, of Ardmore, the question of his paying Cora James' travelling expenses in returning to Ardmore. He advises me that you and the County Judge disapproved the paying of these expenses.

I gave careful consideration to the request of Cora James that she be sent back to Ardmore and reached the conclusion that it would be the best thing to do, and I wish you would take up with Mr. Howard and the County Judge the matter of reimbursing the Carlisle School for the expenses of her transportation to Ardmore.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

6-EO-18

Commissioner.

*E. S. S.*

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

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Education-

B S C

JUN 21 1917

Mr. R. A. Howard,  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

My dear Mr. Howard:

I have your letter of June 8, concerning Cora James, a fourteen year old Choctaw Indian girl, recently returned to Ardmore from the Carlisle School. I have carefully noted what you say regarding the reasons for not desiring to pay the return expenses of Miss James.

She was not in any way expelled from Carlisle School, but desired to be sent back to Ardmore, and after looking into the matter carefully I concluded to approve her request. I am of opinion that it would be proper to pay her expenses and if the consent of the County Judge is obtained the amount should be forwarded to the Superintendent of the Carlisle School.

I have written our Probate Attorney, Mr. Brown, at Ardmore, to take up the matter with the County Judge and trust that satisfactory arrangements can be made.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

6-EO-19

Commissioner.

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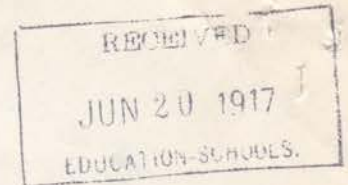
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JOHN FRANCIS, JR.,  
SUPERINTENDENT



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



June 14, 1917.

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

Sir:

FILED BY C. P. F.



Reference is made to your letter of June 7, 1917, regarding the return of Cora James, a pupil at this school.

In accordance with your instructions Cora was returned to her home on Monday, June 11. Her two room mates left at the same time, so this cleared the matter up.

*Int'l  
B50*

Mrs. Ewing and I are not so sure but that the complaint was the very wise scheme of a homesick girl to be sent home. She was not advised of the fact that she was going home until a few hours before train time because we were fearful that others might try the same plan. There is a widespread feeling of unrest all over the school at this time. Pupils seeing the home parties leaving become anxious to go home and make all sorts of plans and schemes to carry out their wishes.

We propose, in a diplomatic way, to impress upon the girls the importance of not discussing or criticising each others religious beliefs and this should prevent anything of the sort happening in the future.

Very truly yours,

*John Francis Jr.*  
Superintendent.

*No ans. necessary  
act 6/23-17  
Each*

JF:R

FILED BY I. M. S.

✓  
11



TELEGRAM

CARLISLE SCHOOL

4

Day

POSTAL

June 9, 1917.

Francis, Supt.,

Carlisle, Pa.

FILED BY C. P. F.

59507

Yours eight. You may pay transportation Cora James.

Ed-Schools  
R H H

*Catskill*

LP

Commissioner.

*Encl*

5

FILED BY J. H. S.

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

**Sigler & Howard**ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW  
ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA

June 8, 1917.

Hon. Cato Sella,  
Commissioner of Indian Schools,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I sent you the following telegram:

"Cora James, 14 year old Choctaw Indian girl recently enrolled in Carlisle from Oklahoma has been ordered discharged because of her personal wish; I as her guardian have been requested to provide transportation. Can she not be retained in Carlisle unless better reason for her discharge exists."

This was the result of telegrams between me and the Supt. at Carlisle, the first of which was received by me just before noon as follows:

"Please place by wire transportation Carlisle to Ardmore for Cora James, whose personal wish to return home has been approved by the commission."

to which I replied:

"County Judge and U. S. Probate Attorney disapprove sending transportation for Cora James."

to which I received the following letter:

"Have been ordered to return Cora James and will do so on Monday as this action is based on her request in all fairness she should pay her own leaving expenses."

After receiving this last telegram, I then wired you. It was my object to call your attention to the fact that this girl ought not to be discharged unless a better reason than her "personal wish" exists.

Cora James is fourteen years old, and I have been her guardian for about seven years. Immediately after I was appointed guardian, I placed her in St. Agnes Academy in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where she remained until the 15th of May last. Then under directions of Mr. A. S. Wyly, Supervisor of Schools, I had her carried to Carlisle. My directions for carrying her to Carlisle was a letter from Mr. Wyly, dated April 12, 1917, as follows:





**Sigler & Howard**

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA

#2

"This office has a letter from the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, stating that you have forwarded application for the enrollment of Cora James in that school. He also states that the application is satisfactory and if you can send the girl to Carlisle at her own expense he can receive her at any time."

This girl had practically completed the course at St. Agnes Academy, and as she was an orphaned girl, had no home to go to, except to remain in this school. All of these facts were set out in the correspondence between myself and Mr. Wyly.

It now seems to me that to return this girl to Oklahoma just because she wants to come is not the proper thing to do.. Of course, if some reason exists other than her personal wish, then of course, whatever order should be made in the premises, will be observed.

I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

RAH:SS



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT WYATT BUILDING, COR. 14TH AND F STS., WASHINGTON, D. C. ALWAYS OPEN

A14AHE 44 NL

ARDMORE OKLA JUN 8 1917

COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS

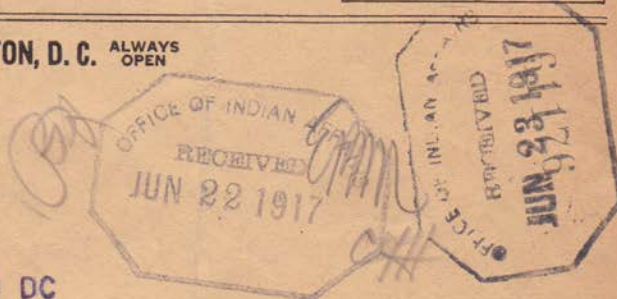
5840 WASHINGTON DC

CORA JAMES FOURTEEN YEAR OLD CHOCTAW INDIAN GIRL RECENTLY ENROLLED  
IN CARLISLE FROM OKLAHOMA HAS BEEN ORDERED DISCHARGED BECAUSE OF  
HER PERSONAL WISH I AS HER GUARDIAN HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO  
PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION CAN SHE NOT BE RETAINED UNLESS BETTER  
REASON FOR DISCHARGE EXISTS

R A HOWARD

255A9

FILED BY T. L.





CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT WYATT BUILDING, COR. 14th AND F STS., WASHINGTON, D. C.

1917 JUN 8 PM 5

A563P 23 COLL GOVT RATE

FY CARLISLE PA 518P 8

SELLS COMMISSIONER

01255  
WASHINGTON (DC)

FILED BY C. P. F.

59507

JUN 13 1917

GUARDIAN OF CORA JAMES REFUSES TO FURNISH TRANSPORTATION  
FOR HER REQUEST AUTHORITY TO RETURN HER AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE  
FRANCIS.



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

June 8, 1917.

The Honorable  
Cato Sells,  
Washington, D. C.

FILED BY C. P. S.



My dear Mr. Sells:

In accordance with your instructions I am arranging to return Cora James to her home at Ardmore. In view of the fact that she has only been here about a month and is ~~reputed~~ to be wealthy I have wired her Guardian to place transportation for her return. This seems to me to be the proper course as she has been here so short a time that I do not think the Government would be justified in paying her expenses, unless you feel that the situation demands such immediate action that this should be done. Also, I want to arrange for her to go with the home party of girls which leaves on Monday and one member of which goes to Oklahoma.

Yours very truly,

*John Francis*  
Superintendent.

JF/S