

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.

6-4344

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, 1917.

CARLISLE

File No.

820

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

SEP 24 1917

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Francis:

The Office has received a letter from Inspector W. S. Coleman, dated September 15, in which he transmits copies of his letter to you, ^{and} one from Mr. Tourtillott, a Menominee Indian at Keshena, Wisconsin, requesting authority for the enrollment of two grandchildren of Mr. Tourtillott in the Carlisle School.

If you present this matter to the Office, advise what action should in your opinion be taken in the case.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

9-8-21.

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE.

SEP 20 1917
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Keshena, Wis., Sept. 15, 1917.

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

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SEP 20 1917
EDUCATION-SCHOOLS.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Sells:

Attached herewith will be found copies of my letter to Superintendent Francis at Carlisle, together with letter of J. H. Tourtillott, a Menominee Indian at Keshena, Wis., both of which are self-explanatory.

After making a personal investigation of this case, my interest and sympathy have become enlisted in this case, which I consider deserving in every particular.

As the matter may be referred to the Indian Office by Superintendent Francis, I am herewith submitting for your consideration the facts in the case. If you may find it worthy of initiatory action on your part, I am sure you will make no mistake in directing the favorable consideration of this application. My real interest in these Indians is my only excuse for burdening your desk with such individual instances.

Assuring you again of my continued best wishes, I have the honor to be

Very truly yours,

W. S. Coleman,
Inspector.

WSC/RGL
Encl.

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Keshena, Wis., Sept. 15, 1917.

Mr. John Francis Jr.,

Superintendent Carlisle Indian School,

Carlisle, Pa.

FILED BY G. P. N.

My dear Mr. Francis:

Attached herewith you will find the letter of Mr. J. H. Toustiltott, dated Sept. 14, 1917, in reference to the enrollment of his two grandchildren at Carlisle, which is self-explanatory, and furnishes considerable detailed information.

The children are above the average in intelligence, and are very anxious to get away from local conditions, to some non-reservation school like Carlisle. Their ambition, and the anxiety of their parent are most commendable, and after a personal visit to the household, I have become much interested in their welfare. As the school term is on, and every day is delay, it may prove a handicap to them, thus I am taking up the matter with you in order that their application may have prompt attention, and if possible, favorable consideration. I am sending copy of this letter to the Commissioner at Washington, and earnestly hope that their degree of Indian blood will not find the door of a desirable non-reservation school shut in their faces, and on account of the financial and health conditions of their grandfather, will be duly considered and every consideration shown him and the children in these circumstances.

He is an excellent Indian, a good citizen, and his ~~an~~ example of industry and living, ~~and~~ is one of the best object lessons to these Menominees. It would seem a crime to deny these bright children an opportunity in life, because they are so nearly white, and their laudable aspiration to accomplish something in life, notwithstanding the handicap which their Indian blood may prove in the battle for advancement, it seems to me that where there is any discretion vested in the superintendent under the law, this case should be given the full advantage.

I am for the time being, on the reservation here, investigating general conditions, and if I can submit this question in such light as may receive prompt and favorable consideration, I will feel much gratified at this opportunity of doing real service to deserving children.

MEMPHIS INDIAN RESERVATION

I shall very much appreciate an answer from you at your very earliest convenience, in view of the short time the children may have for preparation, if they should be allowed to enroll at Carlisle.

With assurances of my regard, and wishing you a successful career at the big Government institution over which you preside, I am

Very truly yours,

W.S. Coleman,

Inspector.

WS C/RGL
Encl.

Keshena, Wis.

Sept 14, 1917



Mr. W. S. Coleman,

U. S. Inspector of Indian Affairs,

Keshena, Wis.

Dear Inspector:

I take this opportunity of writing you, with reference to an application which I recently made through the office of our local Superintendent for the enrollment of my two grandchildren, Lucile O. and Kenneth A. Abert, in the Carlisle Indian School. These applications were made and filed with our superintendent on August 31, 1917, and I have since been informed by Assistant Supt. Marble that they were promptly transmitted to the Superintendent at Carlisle Indian School for further and appropriate consideration, and as no reply has thus far been received from Carlisle, relative to these applications, and in view of the fact that these children are getting rather uneasy and anxious to get to school, and not be behind in their school work, I concluded it advisable for me to lay the matter before you, with a full statement, with reference to these two children, and a full justification for the enrollment requested.

These two children are the result of a very unfortunate marriage of my eldest daughter, to an indolent and worthless scamp of a white man, which was consummated in the fall of 1901. On June 25, 1902, my daughter gave birth to Lucile O. Abert, about six weeks thereafter, my daughter, together with her husband and infant child, came to my home on this reservation, and all remained and made their home with me, until about the month of December, 1903, when he left on the pretense of looking for employment. On January 10, 1904, my daughter gave birth to her second child, now Kenneth A. Abert and one of the subjects of this letter. This Abert, the said husband of my daughter, never returned to her and her children, and in fact has never seen his youngest child, Kenneth A., nor has he ever during these many years, aided, assisted, or contributed, anything toward the support of either his wife or children, and as my daughter, the mother of these children, was left destitute and without means of support, it devolved upon me to care for and support these two children until the Fall of 1905, when she succeeded in being reinstated as seamstress in the Indian School Service in Minnesota, where she went and took with her, her youngest child, Kenneth A. Abert, leaving with me her first child, Lucile O. Abert, who has always remained with me up to the present time.

During the vacation season of 1906, my daughter and her youngest child returned to my home, at which time she was suffering with a very severe cold, which she had contracted the previous winter, and while in the service, from which she never recovered, and finally passed away on December 14, 1906, leaving with me these two children, and while I was not legally bound to do so, I was, morally bound to give my daughter a respectable burial, which I cheerfully did, and I have every since had the care and custody of her two, I can well say, orphan children, and have maintained and supported them without any assistance whatever, from their

worthless and heartless father, who has not even ever seen his legitimate and youngest child, Kenneth A.

Now dear Inspector, I trust you will not misunderstand my motive in writing with reference to these two very dear little ones, and assume that I have tired of providing for and making a home for them, for I sincerely assure you that I love them as I do my own eight children, who I have reared to be good respectable and honorable men and women, and that the tie of love which has ever bound us, can never be severed, until one or the other of us are called to take that journey from who's bourn no traveler returns.

Now Mr. Inspector, in order that you may fully comprehend the motive which prompts me to take this method of laying this matter before you, I feel that a brief history of my past and present life and circumstances may be of some service to you in arriving at a conclusion, which will be just and fair to these two little orphan Indian children, whom I believe you will kindly and gladly assist at this, the crucial time of their lonely and desolate life.

On August 20, 1898, I entered the Indian Service at Keshena, Wis. as issue clerk, at a salary of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00), about the year of 1904, my salary was increased to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), and I continued in this position until it was abolished June 30, 1910. Some time during the month of May, 1911, I was reinstated in the service and appointed clerk at Sisseton, S. D., at a salary of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). In the earlier part of 1912, my salary was increased to Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00), and I held the position of chief clerk at Sisseton Agency, S. D. at this last stated salary up to and including the 16th day of October, 1916, at which time I was obliged to resign my position on account of failing health, and returned to my home on this reservation, but like many other clerks and employees of the Indian service, notwithstanding my eighteen years of service, I accumulated but little of this world's goods, though I had a few hundred dollars and a good home, which I value at about Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

After resigning from Sisseton, my health was such that it was impossible for me to perform manual labor to any great extent, and I have been to quite an expense for medical treatment. I have also been obliged to repair the damage done to my home and property by me tenant during my five or six years sojourn to South Dakota, from which tenant I received but little, in consequence of which my finances have become very much depleted, and owing to my impaired health, and taking into consideration my advanced age, which is sixty-one years past, and in view of what I have done for these dear ones, I feel that in justice to me and these children, that this matter is worthy of special consideration.

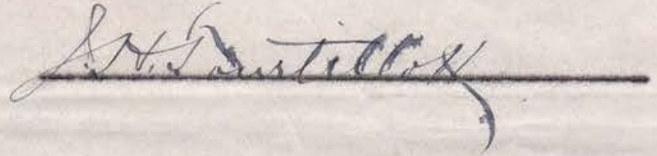
I fully realize the regulation relative to the degree of Indian blood required for the enrollment in a non-reservation Indian school, and that some criticism may be made relative thereto, and while it is true that these children are only one-eighth Indian, both are duly enrolled and recognized members of the Menominee tribe of Indians, as their mother was before them, and as I am myself.

I do therefore most respectfully and sincerely request that you make such investigation of the matter in question as may be deemed advisable by you, and transmit same to the proper authorities, with such recommendation as in your opinion may be justified under the existing circumstances, and I do sincerely hope that after your investigation and candid consideration of the facts in the case

that you can consistently, and with all fairness, recommend favorable action in the matter, to the end that these two dear little ones may be able to avail themselves of the excellent opportunity offered to our young and worthy Indian boys and girls, and that they may at last become self-supporting, and a pride and honor to us, and a useful acquisition to our more fortunate white neighbor.

Hoping that you may give this your early, candid and favorable consideration, and that these children, who have gone through the sixth grade, may be able to get to school at the very earliest possible date.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. D. Stitt", is written above a horizontal line. The signature is elegant and somewhat stylized.

JHS/RGL

