

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.

6-4345

12071-1921

CAUTION

File No.

820

ROBERT L. OWEN, OKLA., CHAIRMAN.
GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK, NEBR. KNUTE NELSON, MINN.
JAMES A. REED, MO. GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN.
ATLEE POMERENE, OHIO. JOHN W. WEEKS, MASS.
JOHN F. SHAFER, I. COLO. CARROLL S. PAGE, VT.
HENRY F. HOLLIS, N. H. ASLE J. GRONNA, N. DAK.
BLAIR LEE, MD. GEO. W. NORRIS, NEBR.
PAUL O. HUSTING, WIS.
DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLA.
JAMES W. BELLER, CLERK.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY.

June 25, 1917.



Hon. Cato Sells,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Interior Department, Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

I enclose a letter from R. A. Howard, and other correspondence which he submits for information.

It appears to me that Mr. Howard is entitled to the information which he desires as to why Cora James after three weeks attendance at Carlisle was sent home merely because she wished it.

Won't you be good enough to have the matter investigated and advise me so that I may intelligently inform Mr. Howard as to the facts.

In replying please return the enclosures submitted herewith.

Very respectfully,

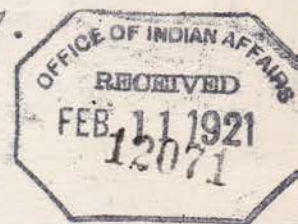
Robert L. Owen

Sigler & Howard

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA

June 22, 1917.



Senator R. L. Owen,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

There is herewith enclosed some correspondence including letters and telegrams with reference to the discharge of an Indian girl named Cora James from Carlisle. I am unable to get any satisfaction as to why she was discharged, except that it was her "personal wish".

I wish you would call upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to furnish the information that prompted him to issue an order for the discharge of Cora James from Carlisle.

I might further say that Cora James is a full-blood Indian girl, fourteen years old, and that she was put on the train on the 11th of June, and did not arrive in Ardmore until the 18th of June, she coming all the way by herself so far as I have been able to learn.

I am inclined to believe that the management at Carlisle is not just what it ought to be if this case is to be used as an example. However, I will withhold any further criticism until I know all the facts.

Yours truly,

RAH:SS
Enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. A. Howard".

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS
FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA. June 20, 1917.

Mr. R. A. Howard,
Attorney at Law,
Ardmore, Okla.

Dear Mr. Howard:

Referring to former correspondence relative to Cora James, who was recently enrolled at Carlisle, I have a letter from the Superintendent enclosing a copy of a letter written to you on the 14th instant. The information contained therein is not very satisfactory inasmuch as the nature of the correspondence which caused the Office to direct that the girl be returned home is not disclosed. It, however, gives an additional reason for her return, as heretofore you have been advised that she merely requested that she be sent home.

I am very sorry indeed that this occurred but I presume that there can be nothing further done at this time with reference to her retention at Carlisle.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Wyly.

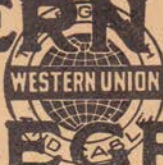
Supervisor.

ASW-GH

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

ARDMORE, OKLA. 5 W. Main Sta.

14 KMY 14. GOVT.

FY. CARLISLE PA. 9:54 AM JUNE 18, 1917.

R.A. HOWARD.

ARDMORE, OK.

YOUR LETTER FIFTEENTH HAS CORA JAMES ARRIVED WIRE.

FRANCIS. 9:30 AM.



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

Fast Day Message

Day Letter

Night Message

Night Letter

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FAST DAY MESSAGE.

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.

Check

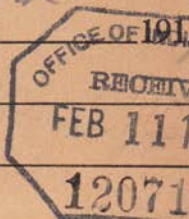
Time Filed

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To

Street and No.

Place



John Francis Jr. Supt
Carlisle Pa
Cora Janus arrived last evening
Al Haward

SENDER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

ALL TELEGRAMS TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a telegram should order it REPEATED, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this the unrepeated telegram rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED TELEGRAM AND PAID FOR AS SUCH. Consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the telegram and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED telegram, beyond the amount paid for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED telegram, beyond fifty times the sum received adding the same, unless specially valued, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscuring.

2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for any mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of this telegram, whether by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of FIFTY DOLLARS, at which amount this telegram is hereby valued, unless a greater value is stated in person at the time the telegram is offered to the Company for transmission, and an additional sum paid or agreed to be paid based on such value equal to one-tenth of percent thereof.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this telegram over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Telegrams will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to get him for such delivery at a reasonable price.

5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning telegrams until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a telegram is sent to such office of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the telegram is received by the Company for transmission.

7. Special terms governing the transmission of messages under the classes of messages enumerated below shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all foregoing terms.

8. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

INCORPORATED

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF SERVICE

DAY MESSAGES

Full-rate expedited service.

NIGHT MESSAGES

Accepted up to 2.00 A.M. at reduced rates to be sent during the night delivered not earlier than the morning of the ensuing business day.

LETTERS

Deferred day service at rates lower than the standard day message rates as follows: One and one-half times the standard Night Letter rate for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of initial rate for each additional 10 words or less.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Day Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams.

B. Day Letters shall be written in plain English. Code language not permissible.

C. This Day Letter may be delivered by the Telegraph Company telephoning the same to the addressee, and such delivery shall be a complete discharge of the obligation of the Telegraph Company to deliver.

D. This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day

Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of regular telegrams under the conditions named above.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2.00 A.M. for delivery on the morning of the ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night message rates as follows: The standard day rate for 10 words shall be charged for transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard day rate shall be charged for each additional 10 words.

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Night Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

A. Night Letters may at the option of the sender be mailed at destination to the addressee, and such mailing shall be deemed to have discharged the obligation of the Company to delivery by mailing prepaid.

B. Night Letters shall be written in plain English and is not permissible.

No employee of

JOHN FRANCIS, JR.,
SUPERINTENDENT



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



June 14, 1917.

Mr. R. A. Howard,
Attorney at Law,
Ardmore, Okla.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 8, 1917, regarding the return home of Cora James.

I think it is only fair to you to give you some information regarding the matter other than contained in my telegrams to you.

Cora James, through correspondence, made certain representations which caused the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to direct her return to her home, and my action was based on these instructions.

Very truly yours,

JF:R

John Francis Jr.
Superintendent.

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

27DA BW 22 GOVT

FY CARLISLE PA 215PM JUNE 12 917

R A HAOWARD

ARDMORE OKLA

CORA JAMES LEFT HARRISBURG SEVEN TWENTY SEVEN LAST EVEING
FOR CHICAGO TICKETED TO ARDMORE VIA ROCK ISLAND

FRANCIS

144PM



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS
FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA. June 11, 1917.

Mr. R. A. Howard,
Attorney at Law,
Ardmore, Okla.

Dear Mr. Howard:

Your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter to Supt. Francis, of the Carlisle Indian School, with reference to Cora James, is received. I have carefully read your letter and also the copy to the Superintendent and I am writing Mr. Francis requesting that Cora be kept at Carlisle if she has not already been sent home.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Wyly,
Supervisor.

ASW-GH

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

ARDMORE, OKLA. 5 W. Main St.

10KM BW 29 GOVT

FY CARLISLE PA 1010AM JUNE 8

R A HOWARD

ARDMORE OKLA

PLEASE PLACE BY WIRE TRANSPORTATION CARLISLE TO ARDMORE FOR
CORA JAMES WHOSE PERSONAL WISH TO RETURN HOME HAS BEEN APPROVED
BY THE COMMISSION

FRANCIS

929AM



Francis,
Supt Carlisle Indian School
Carlisle Pa



County Judge and U S Probate Attorney
disapprove sending transportation for Cora James
R. H. Weaver



1386
600

786

10⁰⁰
15

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

ARDMORE, OKLA. 5 W. Main St

49KM BW 37 GOVT

FY CARLISLE PA 518PM JUNE 8 1917

R A HOWARD

ARDMORE OKLA

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 EXPENSE

FRANCIS

447PM



June 8, 1917.

Supt. Carlisle Indian School,
Carlisle, Penn.

Dear Sir:

I received your telegram 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 by wire:

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

If you will refer to the correspondence between me and
Mr. Wyly with reference to the placing of Cora James in
Carlisle, you will observe she had practically finished
the course in St. Agnes Academy, and could no longer stay
there, and that she had no other place to go, and that if
she returned to her natural haunts, getting her to return
to school next fall would be highly improbable. It was
therefore necessary to put her in some school for the
summer rather than permit her to return to some relative,
who would take her back to the condition of the original
Indians in this country.

Mention was also made of some accomplishments
that ought to be developed in her. She has now been in your
school about three weeks, and being only 14 years of age,
she naturally would get homesick and want to come home.
And as you state in your telegram, it is her personal
wish to return home. I can hardly understand how it is
that you permit the inmates of your institution to inter-
tain and cultivate such extravagant ideas.

I have discussed this matter quite at length with
the County Judge, who supervises me in paying out guardian-
ship money, as well as the U. S. Probate Attorney and the
Field Clerk, Col. S. A. Mills, all whom are well acquainted
with Cora James, and they all agree that it would be the
height of folly for her to come back to Oklahoma for such
a reason as assigned by you in your telegram.

RAH:SS

Yours truly,

C. C. F. A. S. Wyly



June 8th, 1917.

Mr. A. S. Wyly,

Supivisor of Schools,

Muskogee, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Since writing the enclosed letter I received another telegram from Mr. Francis, as follows:

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.

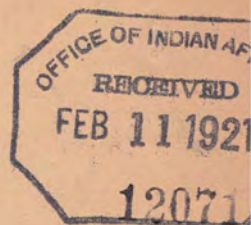
I thereupon wired the Honorable Commissioner of Indian affairs as follows:

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 in Carlisle unless better reason for her discharge exists.

I am submitting this matter to you because I beleive you understand that possibly a girl only 14 years old placed in school at this time is liable to become "homesick" and want to leave, but that a few days longer in the institution would be sufficient to reconcile her to her new environments, and that a simple personal wish is not sufficient reason for permitting a student to leave the school.

I was pleased to note the magnificent school and management, when I placed Cora there some weeks ago, and I would regret for her to be deprived of the training she will received just because she may be "homesick"

Yours truly,



Ardmore, Oklahoma, June 8, 1917.

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

Dear Sir:

I sent you the following telegram:

"Cora James, 14 year old Choctaw Indian girl recently entolled 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 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 that this girl ought not to be discharged unless a better reason than "personal wish" exists.

~~A history of this case is as follows:~~ 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. Wyley, dated April 12, 1917, as follows:

"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."

#2

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, ~~I will submit~~ whatever order should be made in the premises, *will be observed*

I beg to remain.

Yours truly,

RAH:SS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U. S. INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA, April 12, 1917.

Mr. R. A. Howard,
Ardmore, Okla.

Dear Mr. Howard:

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.

Kindly advise this office at once and the matter will have prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Wyly
Supervisor.

CB-GH
CC Carlisle.

\$ -