

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.*

9-1244

*See 104031-20*

*63586*, 1918.

CLERK

File No.

*825*

L-C  
12868-23  
JMB

2

68586-18

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington. FEB 28 1923

Mr. Richard R. Kasetta,  
Care Earley Printery, 112 W. Main St.,  
Carlisle, Pa.

My dear Mr. Kasetta:

FILED BY G. P. P.

In response to your recent inquiry concerning your rights as a person of Indian blood, this Office requests that you furnish the following data:

1. Names of your parents and their degree of Indian blood.
2. Whether your parents were ever enrolled and recognized as members of any tribe or band of Indians. If so, name the tribe or band.
3. Date and place of your birth, and places and approximate dates of your past residence.
4. Whether you ever sustained tribal relations with any tribe of Indians. If so, name the tribe and state when and where and for what period of time you lived in affiliation with the Indians.
5. Give the names of relatives, if any, who are enrolled or who have been enrolled and received benefits as Indians; their address and the name of the tribe or tribes with which they are or were enrolled.
6. Your statements should be corroborated by affidavits of two or more persons who have knowledge of the facts in your case.

A person of Indian blood who has the necessary qualifications, may under certain conditions obtain an allotment on the public domain under the general allotment act of February

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.

8, 1887 (24 Stat. L., 388), as amended, or a homestead under the Act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stat. L., 76-96). It is essential, however, that an applicant under either of these acts shall obtain a certificate from this Office showing that he is eligible to make such an application. It may be added, however, that there are many persons residing in different parts of the United States who no doubt possess some Indian blood, but who have never lived on an Indian reservation or affiliated with Indians in any way or been recognized by any tribe as a member thereof. Such persons are not entitled to the benefits of either of the above mentioned acts or to share in any other benefits provided by law for Indians. Such persons are classed as citizens and usually have no claim to Indian rights that can be substantiated.

Respectfully,

*(Signed) E. B. Meritt*

Assistant Commissioner.

(2120)

THE EARLEY PRINTERY

112 WEST MAIN STREET

CARLISLE, PA.

J. P. CULBERTSON, Proprietor



Carlisle, Pa.

Wed, Feb. 14. 1923.

Dept. of the Interior.  
Wash, D.C.

FILED BY G. P. F.

Dear Mr. Burk: I have been wanting to write to you for some time but it seems as if I didn't have the time. What I want to inquire about is my own personal self. If I am not mistaken I think there is a little piece of land that I am entitiled to have. The reason I want to know is that I am about the age that I will soon take up lifes battle and I aught to have something two fall back on. I do not exactly know wheather you were in Office when the Indian School broke up or not but, I was the youngest Indian boy that ever entered the Carlisle School, and I suppose you have my name on the record. My Mother was among the first eleven Indians brought two the School

THE EARLEY PRINTERY

112 WEST MAIN STREET

CARLISLE, PA.

J. P. CULBERTSON, Proprietor

under, General R.H. Pratt, who now resides in your city. I once had a talk to Cato Sells who once looked after the Indians and he said I was entitled to land on account of being the last of my tribe. Mr Pratt states that I am the last of the Lapan Indians who roamed the southern part of Oklahoma. I am now twenty years of age and am living with a lady that took me in when the school left and gave me a home, in fact I nearly made my home there, as her daughter was matron of the boys quarters when I first come to the school. Mrs Martha Sharp. I am quite sure here name is on the record. Wather Sharp requested me to write and see what I could do as she is eighty three years of age, she doesn't expect to give me a home all my life. Mrs Sharp has been very kind to and almost raised me from a babe (over)

under, General R. H. Pratt, who now resides in your city. I once had a talk to Cato Sells who once looked after the Indians and he said I was entitled to land on account of being the last of my tribe. Mr Pratt states that I am the last of the Lapan Indians who roamed the Southern part of Oklahoma. I am now twenty years of age and am living with a lady that took me in when the school left and gave me a home, in fact I nearly made my home there, as her daughter was matron of the boys quarters when I first come to the school. Mrs Martha Sharp. I am quite sure her name is on the record. Wather Sharp requested me to write and see what I could do as she is eighty three years of age, she doesn't expect to give me a home all my life. Mrs Sharp has been very kind to me and almost raised me from a babe.

THE  
THE EARLY PRINTERY

I am now working for Mrs Sharp's son in law  
Mr Culbertson who is in the Printing business  
and he wants me to learn the trade.  
Carlisle is a lost town since the Indian  
School left, it was the only thing that  
ever held Carlisle to pieces and now it  
is going. I wish if you ever got to see  
Capt. Pratt. that you would have a talk  
with him about my affairs as he is the  
only father of the Indians.

Mr Burk I am hoping you will take  
my case in to consideration and see  
what you can do for me, and I know  
there isn't any body that would appreciate  
it more than I. And I am sure Mother  
Sharp could rest in peace if she thought  
I could get along through this rough  
World. I will wait patiently for an  
answer I remain

Richard P. Kasetta.  
% Early Printery  
Carlisle Pa

THE EARLEY PRINTERY  
CARLISLE, PA.



Mr. Charles H. Burke, Com.  
Dept of Interior,  
Washington.  
D.C.



Ed-Schools  
83133-21  
K N

3

87133 - 21.

NOV 25 1921

Mrs. Martha Sharp,  
133 West Pomfret Street,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 24th, relative to the enrollment of Richard Kisatta in Haskell Institute. This Office is sorry it cannot accommodate you in this matter, but all our schools are practically filled and especially Haskell Institute.

Your stamp is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,



Assistant Commissioner.

23 DEC 11

I have done my best to  
train him up in the way  
we should go. I think he would  
not give trouble, now will  
you see what you can do  
and please let me know  
soon. Your friend, for the  
Indian. Mrs Martha Sharp  
133 West Pompey St  
Carlisle Pa

2561-11  
11-2-21 WKB

Carlisle Oct. 24, 1921

RECEIVED

Mr Cato Sells:

Dear Sir,

NOV 1 1921

I am writing  
Education-Schools

you concerning Richard Ksatta  
who has made his home with me  
since the Indian School was  
removed from here. I think it  
best for the lad to be sent to  
Haskell Institute, he is 18, on  
May 22, and I think he could  
learn a Trade, he is a smart boy  
good boy to work, I am too old to have  
the care of him. I am in my 82 year  
too old to take care of him. I would  
like for you to take charge of him  
and see that he is cared for, he need  
some one. I hope you will do something  
for him. Could he have transportation  
from here to Haskell perhaps you  
could write to the Superintendent  
out there to see when he could  
come

Ed-Sch.  
2561-21  
K N

*P*

JAN 24 1921

Mr. J. P. Culbertson,  
112 West Main Street,  
Carlisle, Pa.

My dear Mr. Culbertson:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of  
January 8 relative to Richard Kessetta. You are advised  
this Office does not feel it can interfere with the  
procedure of the State Court in this matter, and it is  
probable that a hope for his reformation will be afforded  
through the means of such institution as the Court commits  
him to.

Very truly yours,

*E. B. Meritt*  
Assistant Commissioner.

1-WC-20

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

# THE EARLEY PRINTERY

112 WEST MAIN STREET

CARLISLE, PA.

J. P. CULBERTSON, PROPRIETOR

January 8, 1921.



To the Hon. Cato Sells,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I take the liberty of addressing you relative to Richard Kasseti. As a son-in-law of Mrs. Martha Sharp and a member of her household, I am in a position to know fully all the facts of his case.

I was helping Major Mercer at the Small Boys quarters when Richard was brought to the school and it was I who received him and entered his name upon the books and I have been in constant touch with him ever since. He was one of the best trained little fellows at the school when he came there and could have been made a useful person had the mistake not been made of turning him over to Mrs. Sharp. She is an old woman in her dotage and not capable of managing her own affairs, much less of handling him. For a long time she has had absolutely no control over him and will permit no member of her family to exercise any authority over him. He has been loafing around, coming in at all hours of the night and doing just as he pleases.

Now he is in the hands of the law for Burglary. It appears he has been associated with a lot of toughs, gambling etc. Last Monday night a store was entered and robbed of money. The police have fastened the crime on him and he is now under their charge. He made a full confession yesterday, in my presence. Unless you can send an agent here to take him away and put him in one of your schools, I fear the Reformatory or Penitentiary is waiting for him.

Mr. Denny has tried to get him away from his unhealthy surroundings, but Mrs. Sharp has succeeded in thwarting every effort that has been made to do what is best for him.

In justice to the boy and to the Indian Service, I am writing you these plain facts in the hope that you will yet be able to save him from himself and his evil companions.

I will add that I have enjoyed the warm personal friendship of ever Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School and am prompted solely by a desire to save the boy.

Very respectfully yours

J. P. Culbertson

Handwritten notes: 403, 20, 810

Handwritten note: Schools?

Handwritten note: Lo

Handwritten initials: J.P.C.

Ed-Sch  
104031-20  
G A C

2

JAN -3 1921

Mrs. Martha A. Sharp,  
133 West Poinfret Street,  
Carlisle, Pa.

My dear Mrs. Sharp:

Referring to your letter of December 22  
in regard to your desire to place Richard Kesetta  
in an Indian School, please advise the age of  
this boy, his tribe, the reservation from which  
enrolled, his grade in school, and if practicable  
his degree of Indian blood. This will enable the  
Office to determine what Indian school, if any,  
Richard is eligible to attend.

Very truly yours,

*(Signed) C. F. Hauke*

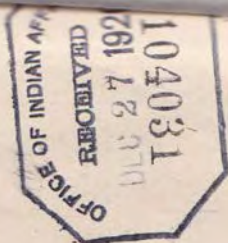
Acting Assistant Commissioner.

12 ABC 30

FILED BY W. G.

Initialing Copy - For File

0



Carlisle Dec. 22/1920

Mr Cato Sells:

Dear Sir:

Esek

I think  
it is best for to give  
Richard Kesette in to  
your care, he has arrived  
to the age to learn a trade  
you know best where to  
send him. This summer  
he worked on a farm  
he is good worker I am  
now too old to do for

he begged to stay here  
when the Indians left  
said if I would give him  
a home, he would support  
himself, but there is no  
place near here that  
is a free trade school  
so now you can perhaps  
help him to get some  
trade I dont know how  
Haskell Institute would  
be. I hope he will be a  
good useful man.  
If you can arrange  
the matter, I am 80  
years old, and I cant  
take care of any one but

myself, perhaps you  
would like to take a day  
of, and visit us, and  
see Richard, will close  
this, and please write  
me what to do.

Ever your friend  
Mrs Martha A Sharp

Address Martha A Sharp  
Carlisle  
Pa  
133 West Cornfret St







E. A. & G. H. SMILEY  
PROPRIETORS

WILDMERE HOUSE  
MINNEWASKA, ULSTER CO., N. Y.



*RECEIVED BY G. P. B. 4372*  
Hon. Cato Sells,  
Commissioner, Indian Affairs  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Sells.  
We feel so sorry not  
to have seen you when  
you were in Pauline,  
*each*  
I have been so much  
interested in Richard  
Nassetta and anxious  
to know what will be  
done with him *Sells*

Dear old Mrs Sharp, who has had  
him since he was four years  
old, (Richard is now fifteen) and  
Mrs Sharp is seventy five, she  
is too old to have the care of  
him, for he is allowed to run  
the streets and do as he pleases.  
I feel he would be so much  
better at Haskell with Mr Pierce.  
for he is just at the age where he  
needs a firm hand.

Richard failed completely in his  
studies last year and it would  
be just the same next year  
if he is permitted to run the  
streets of Lowell. If he is ever  
to amount to anything, he must  
get away from his present  
surroundings.

We love him very dearly, for  
he is a very lovable boy, and  
make a fine <sup>man</sup> if the right in-  
fluence is thrown around him.  
Mrs Sharp has made a complete  
failure of her own son, and  
it would be the same with poor

little Richard if he  
should remain with  
her.

I would ask you to  
please not let either  
Richard or Mrs Phelps  
know I have written  
you, but I feel it  
my duty to do so.

May God bless you  
in the great work you  
are doing.

Sister unites with  
me in our best wishes  
to you.

Very respectfully yours  
Anna M Richards,  
Carlisle Pa.

k

J S

JUL 27 1918

W E M C

J

Mr. Claud V. Peel,  
 Travelling Auditor in Charge,  
 Carlisle School.

FILED BY G. P. B. 08 09 18

My dear Mr. Peel:

Your letter of July 24, 1918, regarding the case of Richard Kesetta is at hand. I consider it advisable to allow Mrs. Martha A. Sharp custody of the child, and you may make the necessary arrangements with her.

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed) Cato Sells*

Commissioner.

7-LW-25

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

*File with 63586-78*

July 20 1918

Mr Peck,

Dear Sir:

I will try to tell you as well as I can how old Richard was when I took him into my home. He was about three and half years old, I sent him to school when about six years. he passed through each Grade, and last Oct entered High School

was in Freshman class  
he is a good boy and  
wants to Graduate from  
Carlisle High School. he  
is of a very mechanic  
disposition. think him  
of industrious disposition  
Mr Peck I hope this  
will be all right.

please excuse all  
~~errors~~

Respectfully yours  
Martha A Sharp-

P.S Richard was  
fifteen years old on  
May 22, 1888



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

July 24, 1918.

FILED BY G. P. F.

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

Sir:

Mrs. Martha A. Sharp, a respected resident of Carlisle, has requested that Richard Kesetta, one of the pupils of this school, be permitted to remain with her and attend the schools in the town of Carlisle.

I have to advise that Richard is now fifteen years of age and previous to this last year has been with Mrs. Sharp since he was four years old and attended the public schools in Carlisle until he is now in his second year at the High School.

Richard's mother was an ex-student of Carlisle and while on the Outing married a white man whom, I am informed, afterwards died. The mother died, leaving Richard an orphan when he was four years old and it appears that subsequent to his return to Carlisle Major Mercer turned him over to Mrs. Sharp at her request.

Last year Mr. Francis was informed by neighbors of Mrs. Sharp that Richard was running wild, so to speak, and that Mrs. Sharp was getting too old to be able to control him, whereupon Mr. Francis brought him back to the school. Mrs. Sharp protested and I understand from time to time requested that Richard be returned to her. Our efforts with him at the school this past year

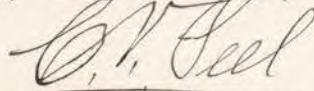
were, more or less, a failure as he failed to pass his examinations at the High School.

Mrs. Sharp loves Richard like a mother and shortly after Mr. Francis left she called upon me and pleaded for his return to her. She says she will see that Richard gets a good education and is taken care of even should she die.

I requested Mrs. Sharp to write me a letter in regard to the matter, and, although it contains very little information, I am enclosing it herewith. I am inclined to think the boy will do better in the future and recommend that he be allowed to remain with Mrs. Sharp in order that he may continue in the Carlisle schools. If he graduates from the High School he can then attend Dickinson College.

An early consideration of this matter will be appreciated.

Very respectfully,



Trav. Aud. in Chge.

P/S  
encl.