



Subject:
Band Leader

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

Personal.

February 25, 1914.

FILED BY L. E. G.

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

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

Status file

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
MAR 13 1914
27487

I am enclosing herewith two letters received from Mr. *Orig.*
James R. Wheelock, a former student of this school, now re-
siding in the town of Carlisle. In his letter dated Feb. 12,
he makes application for the position of temporary band in-
structor during the suspension of Mr. Stauffer. I replied
to this letter and invited Mr. Wheelock to call at my office
and talk the matter over. He came to the office and I went
over the situation with him. I told him I was not in a posi-
tion to do anything at that time. A few days after this con-
ference, I received the other letter, dated Feb. 19. After
considering the matter carefully, I again invited Mr. Wheelock
to come to the office. He came this morning and I went over
the proposition very carefully with him. I told him that I
wished to be fair with him, and that under the circumstances,
I believed it would be for his own best interests, as well as
for the best interests of the school, to employ someone else
to take charge of the band until Mr. Stauffer's case is disposed
of. He said he was willing to leave the matter to my judgment,
and he left the office satisfied. Very soon after he returned

to town, he called me over the telephone and advised me that he had reconsidered the matter, and that he felt he should be given the temporary position, and he suggested going to Washington and taking the matter up with you personally.

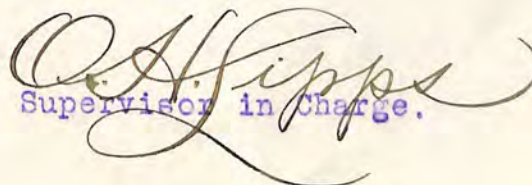
During the interim between the receipt of Mr. Wheelock's last letter and his calling at the office this morning, I had put the proposition up to the band boys themselves. I stated to them that they realized commencement was not very far off and it would be necessary to get to work at once on the musical part of the program. I did not let them know who the applicants for the position were, but suggested that they talk the matter over among themselves and send a committee of three to the office to let me know their conclusions as to any suggestions they might have regarding the matter. This committee came to the office yesterday morning and told me that the band boys had talked the matter over carefully, and had come to the conclusion that under the circumstances, it would be best to employ a local man, and one who was familiar with entertainment work. They recommended a Mr. McDonald, who lives in Carlisle, and conducts a band and orchestra there. I have made some inquiries regarding Mr. McDonald, and I find no objection to him as a man, and his competency is very highly recommended, even Mr. Wheelock himself told me that Mr. McDonald would be a very suitable man for the temporary position.

I understand that Mr. Wheelock has had some trouble with Mr. Friedman, and also with Mr. Stauffer; that he also had

some trouble with some of the former band boys at this school. I am informed that there is considerable information regarding him in the files of the Indian Office, and that Supervisor Holcombe, some years ago, conducted an investigation of complaints made against Mr. Wheelock. I know nothing as to the merits of these complaints, and I have nothing at all against Mr. Wheelock; in fact, under ordinary circumstances, I should be very glad to give him the position. I do not feel however, under the circumstances, that I would be justified in doing so. I cannot assume that Mr. Friedman and Mr. Stauffer will not be reinstated, their case has not been heard or decided, and in my opinion nothing should be done to give room for criticism or that would tend to stir up trouble. I believe Mr. Wheelock to be perfectly competent to do the work, but it is simply a question of the best interests of the school at this time. Our time is short, and it is important that we get to work at once on our commencement program. I have no time to spend in controversy over the matter, and I believe Mr. Wheelock appreciates my position and understands fully that I am acting in the best interests of the school.

I am simply laying this matter before you in order that you may be advised regarding it, in case Mr. Wheelock should appeal to you personally and ask for the temporary appointment.

Very truly yours,


Supervisor in Charge.

Mansion House

J. N. McCORMICK
PROPRIETOR

CARLISLE, PA.

Feb. 12-

1914

Mr. O. H. Libbo,

acting Supt.

Carlisle Indian School.

Carlisle, Pa.

Stauffer file
P. Wheelock



Dear Sir:

I beg to place my name before you for consideration for the position of Temporary Band Master & vocal instructor, during the suspension of Mr. Stauffer.

I live in Carlisle with my family and I am directing a P. R. R. Company Band at Eucla, Pa.

I served as director of the School Band under General Pratt's administration. Mr. Whitwell, the Principal Teacher I am sure will be glad to give you any information you may

Mansion House

J. N. McCORMICK
PROPRIETOR

CARLISLE, PA. 191

desire as regards my ability
and character.

I have written the Commissioner
of Indian Affairs asking for
this position. It may interest
you to know that I graduated
from this Indian School in 1896.

I would be pleased to call
on you at your convenience. I
am

Yours truly,

J. R. Wheelock

40 Main Street,

Carlisle, Pa.



Wheelock and his Band

JAMES RILEY WHEELOCK
CONDUCTOR



PHILADELPHIA
PA.

Feb. 19- 1914

Mr. O. H. Lipps,
Acting Superintendent
Carlisle, Penna.



My dear Mr. Lipps:

Following up our conversation this morning in reference to my relations and standing with the school official, I am enclosing herewith a clipping of my complaint in 1909 against Mr. Friedman, which severed my relations with the Carlisle Indian School so far as Mr. Friedman was concerned and placed me on the "undesirable" list. I could probably send you more clippings but I know you are busy and would not have time to look them over, so this will show you reason for any "knock" that I may be given from Mr. Friedman or his friends.

In accordance with the announced idea of the Indian Department of giving Indians preference in all positions, Carlisle should have an Indian at the head of its band, also at the head of its athletics - it does ^{not} necessarily mean that I receive the position of band master, but one should be secured that can and will bring the band up to the highest standard possible - same



Wheelock and his Band

JAMES RILEY WHELOCK
CONDUCTOR



PHILADELPHIA
PA.

19

ice football and other athletic sports - we have Indian athletes who can handle that department - you now have Indian chief clerk, Indian head of the Outing System, both well fitted for the positions, don't you think it possible to secure Indians as well qualified to fill the positions of Musical Director and Athletic Director?

I am fully aware of the fact that at the present time nothing can be done and that you can only suggest matters and I place this matter before you as a suggestion from one who has always felt that an Indian is the equal of any white man and should be given position when he shows merit and if you approve of the suggestion and extend it to the department, you will be following the idea on which Carlisle was built. I am

Yours truly,

Stanford J. R. Wheelock

Carlisle, Pa.

2-19-14

Phila Record
GRADUATE PRODS

INDIAN SCHOOL

July 5 - 1909

**Bandmaster Wheelock Charges
Cruelty and Mismanagement
at Carlisle.**

HINTS AT CONSPIRACY

**Two Students He Signed De-
clared to Have Been Im-
mured in Dungeon.**

Special to "The Record."

Carlisle, Pa., July 4.—Steps to bring about an investigation of the Government's Carlisle Indian School, on charges gravely affecting the character of the present management, have been taken by James Riley Wheelock, '96, the famous Indian bandmaster and one of the institution's most noted graduates.

Wheelock's action was brought to this stage as the result of a clash he had with the management over the signing of two students for his Indian Band. Charging that he had met with the *oppression of his* *out in* *school* *dealing* at the school, Wheelock asserts that the signing of the two students brought about their summary incarceration in the school *dungeon* where they lay in squalor for two weeks, fed on bread and water, one, as the result of the bandmaster's complaint at Washington, being subsequently thrust out of the school, barely able to stand on his feet, while the other was deported.

The bandmaster adds to his specific charge of cruelty in the case of these two students, a general charge of laxity in administration, and intimates that there is an Indian Bureau conspiracy on to discredit the school and thus secure its abolition, an object Commissioner Leupp was unable to accomplish during the past two years. In this respect Wheelock's charges substantially follow up those made previously by the well-known Dr. Montezuma, also a Carlisle graduate.

Wheelock, who is known the country over and who married a white girl, a Miss Eversman, of Carlisle, has put his charges into the form of a complaint to the authorities at Washington and in the form of a statement for publication. In the latter he says:

Proteges Nearly Starved.

As a graduate of the Carlisle Indian School, and basing my authority on 20 years' intimate knowledge of the remarkable educational successes accomplished by this institution, I want to protest to the public in general against the inefficient and incapable administration which *has charge of Carlisle.*

After playing a number of years in the Carlisle Indian School Band I took up a musical career, as suggested to me by the school authorities. I studied in Germany and England, after working in America, and for eight years have conducted concert bands. The two previous administrations lent me every proper aid in my efforts to provide a professional outlet for the talented Indian boys who have been graduated from Carlisle, but I have met with peculiar obstacles in dealing with the present.

Recently in reorganizing my band for the coming season I engaged, upon their own application, two Indian graduates—Spencer Williams and Carl Sylvester, over 21 years of age and American citizens by the laws of the country. Although the school management should have been glad to encourage actual students to get a summer's professional experience, Superintendent Friedman recently notified me that he would not allow students to play with my band during the summer, for the reason that he had other work for them. I accepted the two named graduates, terminating their contracts on September 15, at which time they were to return to Carlisle to take up a newly-established business course.

As soon as Superintendent Friedman heard of these contracts he summarily threw both men in the school dungeon, where they have laid in squalor, fed on bread and water for two weeks, to the serious injury of the health of Sylvester. I immediately appealed to Washington. Carl Sylvester, emaciated and barely able to stand on his feet, was thrust out of the prison and school grounds at midnight of Wednesday, June 30, and sent away from Carlisle. Spencer Williams was released on the Friday following, and *deported.*

The Carlisle School management for the past year has conducted affairs with a high hand. Violent physical outbreaks have occurred, largely as a result of the administration's inability to understand the Indian nature. The number of run-away students has become positively alarming. Discipline is at the lowest ebb that it has ever been at Carlisle, and the wants of the students are so poorly attended to that the highest thought of many of the students is to get into Carlisle with enough money to buy a square meal. If it were possible that the Government would send an inspector to examine carefully into the conditions prevailing at Carlisle he would find that 95 per cent. of the students are perfectly disgusted with the miserable condition of the hitherto model training school.

Scheme to Kill School.

The present Carlisle School management simply cannot account for the wholesale resignations of trusted members of the school staff without acknowledging that the competent officials lost within a year have practically all quit in supreme disgust. Carlisle stands to-day as the weakest-disciplined institution in the United States—a laughing-stock to those familiar with it.

The open allegation was made in Carlisle over a year ago that a certain influential Government official, who has been opposed for years to the Carlisle School idea, would send such an administration to Carlisle that the institution would break up out of its own weakness, thus relieving this official of the responsibility of

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Western Union Telegraph

MANUFACTURERS
OF
CHOCOLATE AND COCOA

Hershey, Pa. Feb. 24, 1914.

Honorable Cato Sells,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I have just heard indirectly of the investigations and changes that have taken place at the Carlisle Indian School, in which I have been much interested for many years, having given employment to a great many of the graduates, as well as students while in school.

I understand that Mr. J.K. Wheelock has made application for the position as Bandmaster and it is my pleasure to say that I have known Mr. Wheelock for quite some time and know him to be a thoroughly trustworthy and capable man and one that would be a credit to the position, and, I believe, would be a stimulus to the students to rise above the position now occupied by the Indians.

I wish you to understand that I have no object whatever in recommending Mr. Wheelock other than the interest I take in the Indian School.

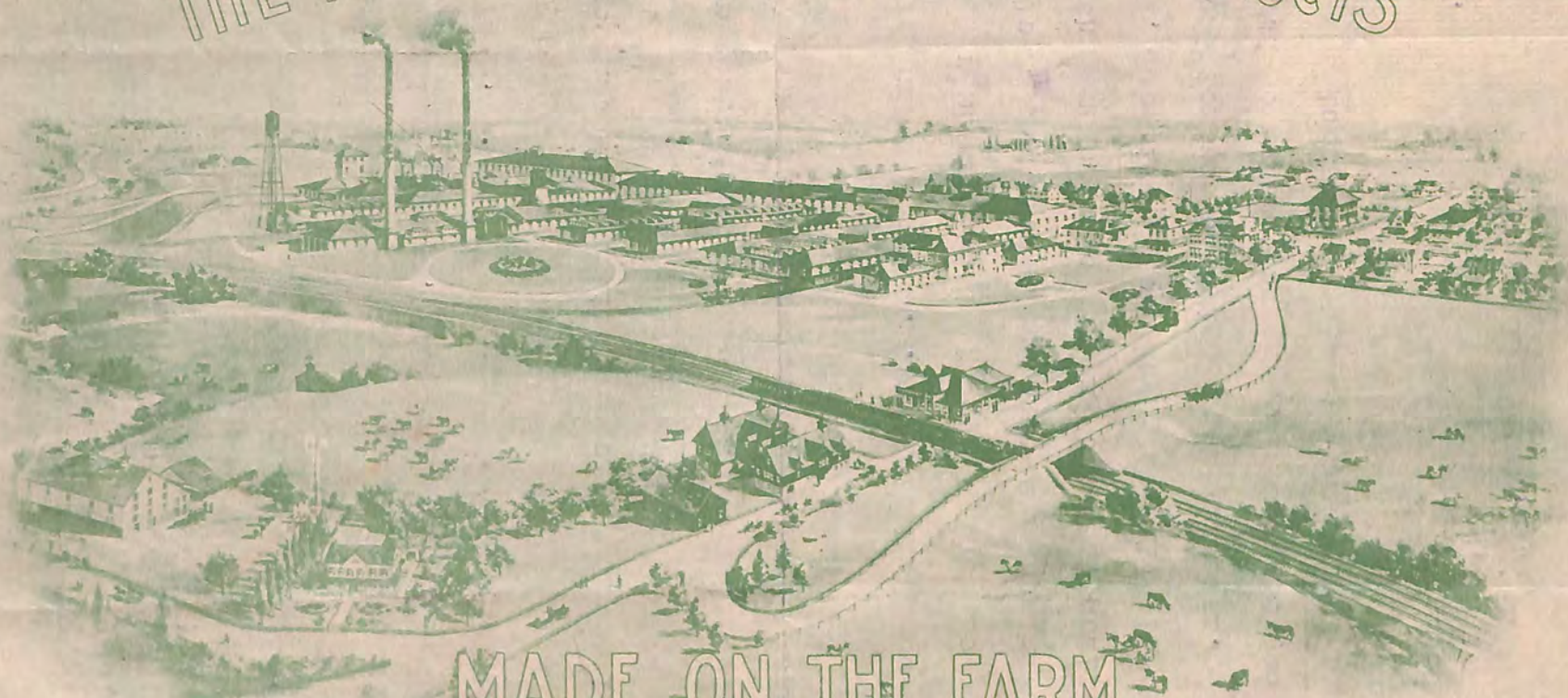
I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wm. F. B. Munn



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FOR STATUS OF ----

Mr.

Wheelock

SEE 21528 - 14

CARLISLE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

ELMER E. HESS, A. M., PH D.
SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
FEB 27 1914
21492

State file

OXFORD, PA. Feb. 25, 1914. 191

COMMISSIONER OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
FEB 27 1914

Mr. Cato Sells,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

This letter is in the interest of Prof. J. R. Wheelock who has made application for the position of Band Director at the Carlisle Indian School.

Prof. Wheelock is a band leader of the first order. He is a distinguished solo clarinetist, but plays a number of other instruments. He can exemplify his directions by using the instrument himself, and performing the most difficult feats. He does justice to the extensive training that he has had both in this country and abroad.

While in Oxford, he was director of the Oxford Band and brought it to a scientific musical basis. I had the pleasure of listening to his Indian Band at Cape May, N. J. one season. His skill was highly appreciated by all who heard him.

Aside from his ability as a band leader, Prof. Wheelock is a Christian gentleman and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His character is above reproach, and his conduct exemplary. He commands respect for many manly qualities and has a definite, forceful and magnetic personality.

I am confident you will find it advantageous to have him in charge of the Carlisle Indian Band.

Very truly yours,

Elmer E. Hess

FILED BY L. E. G.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
William W. Hartman, Minister
Tyrone, Penna.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
FEB 26 1914
90885

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

My Dear Sir,-

I understand that Mr. J.R. Wheelock of Carlisle, Pa. is an applicant for the position of leader of the Carlisle Indian School band. It gives me pleasure to state that I have known Mr. Wheelock for two years past, and regard him to be a man of good character. He was leader of a great chorus choir here, rendering in a most creditable manner some famous oratorios. He impressed the people of this community as a man of decided musical ability, and as a capable and popular leader of orchestra and choir.

Yours sincerely,

FILED BY L. E. G.

February 24, 1914.

W. W. Hartman

States file

leaf

VANCE C. McCORMICK
HARRISBURG, PA.

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1914
20953
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

February 23, 1914.

Cato Sells, Esq.,
Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

COMMISSIONER OF
FEB 26 1914
IND-14 A-1433

FILED BY L. E. G.

Dear Sir:

J. R. Wheelock, a former pupil of the Carlisle Indian School is an applicant for the position of Bandmaster in that School, and has asked me to write you concerning his application. I knew Mr. Wheelock a number of years ago, when I was interested in the Athletics of the School, and I was impressed with his ability at that time. I have not had an opportunity to follow his course in recent years, but think it will be well worth while to look into his qualifications for the position as he is an Indian and an old pupil of the School.

Yours very truly,

Vance C. McCormick

vcm-n

status file
L. E. G.

NATIONAL GUARD OF PENNSYLVANIA

HEADQUARTERS 8th INFANTRY

Harrisburg Pa Feb 21 1914



FILED BY L. E. G. C. A. L. E. G.

From: Commanding Officer 8th Inf.
To: Commissioners of Indian Affairs
Subject: Bandmaster of Band at Carlisle School.

1. James Riley Wheelock an applicant for the position of Bandmaster, is known by the Colonel 8th Inf, as a Competent Instructor and Director of Bands. He has acted in that capacity for this Regimental Band to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He is considered by this Regiment as being a high class Musician.

Joe B. Hutchinson
Colonel.

Stature file

Heretofore ack.
Empo.

Education-
Employees.
16150-1914.
G W B

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9
FEB 20 1914

Mr. J. R. Wheelock,
40 Main Street,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sir:

The Office is in receipt of your letter of February 13, applying for appointment as musical director at the Carlisle School, Pennsylvania.

Should this place become available, your qualifications will be given careful consideration with those of other applicants for the same position.

Respectfully,

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

2-AAC-18.

INDIAN OFFICE COPY.

Mansion House

J. N. McCORMICK
PROPRIETOR



CARLISLE, PA.

Feb. 23rd

1914

Hon. Cato Sells.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

FILED BY L. E. G.

Dear Sir:

I notice the fact that the Musical Director of the Carlisle Indian School has been suspended, as a result of the investigation. May I offer my services temporary or permanent for the position of Band Master and vocal instructor. I am located with my family in the town of Carlisle and it would suit me very well to fill the position.

I was Band Master at this school under General Pratt's administration and would

therefore refer you to him as to my ability and general character.

Mansion House

J. N. McCORMICK
PROPRIETOR

CARLISLE, PA.191

I graduated in the class
of 1896 and a member
of the Oneida Tribe of
Green Bay, Wis.

Trusting to receive favorable
consideration. Sincerely

Yours truly,
J. R. Wheelock

40 Main Street,
Carlisle, Pa.

C. B. CRAY,
PRESIDENT
R. H. BARNES,
GEN'L SECRETARY

G. W. FISHER,
TREASURER
H. B. ORR,
REC. SECRETARY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Young Men's Christian Association

ENOLA, PA.,

December



R sent
12/27/13 *file*

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

Sir:

For sometime past I have been considering the advisability of making an application to your department for reinstatement in the Indian Service. I graduated from the Carlisle Indian School under General Pratt's administration and for several years after my graduation in 1896 I served under him as Printer and Band Master.

Since leaving Carlisle and the Service in 1901 I have had varied experiences with the business world, having held important positions with Pennsylvania Steel Company and Pennsylvania Railroad Company. I feel that I am well equipped to take up a position of responsibility and that I can be of some real help to the department. I should be glad to consider a position that may be open to me without Civil Service examination. I gladly refer you as to my character and ability to General R. H. Pratt, who I understand is in Washington this winter and if further endorsement is necessary Congressman A. R. Rupley of Carlisle, I am sure will vouch for me tho I have made no mention to him or asked him to endorse my application, I merely mention him because he knows me

sent

C. B. CRAY,
PRESIDENT
R. H. BARNES,
GEN'L SECRETARY

G. W. FISHER,
TREASURER
H. B. ORR,
REC. SECRETARY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Young Men's Christian Association



ENOLA, PA.,

#2

personally and my reputation. I would be pleased to offer further recommendations from my former employers and from the Company I am now employed, however, I do not think that is necessary.

I would be pleased to come to Washington to converse with you if you think it advisable.

Awaiting your pleasuer, I am

Yours truly,

J. R. Wheelock

W. J. RUSLING,
PRESIDENT
S. D. WEEKS,
GEN'L. SECRETARY

G. W. FISHER,
TREASURER
H. B. ORR,
COR. SECRETARY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Young Men's Christian Association



ENOLA, PA., July 29th, 1911. 191

To the Honorable Commissioner,
Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Having been out of the Indian Service since 1902 I desire now ^{to} place in your hands my application for re-instatement or re-appointment as Band Director in conjunction with some other position. My position at Carlisle was that of Assistant Printer and Band Master. I graduated from Carlisle in 1896 and my record from that time will stand investigation as I can furnish references from various sources as to my character and ability. You probably have some vacancies in some one of the large western schools in as much as there is no vacancy at Carlisle. Trusting to be favored with a favorable reply, I am

Yours truly,

Gump

*"D" sent 8/9/11
File*

J. R. Wheeler

Wheelock

7 11

DOI 2172
11 uc R2
By Wheeler

RETIRED