

185-0

October 5, 1914.

Mr. George Fire Thunder,  
Martin, S. D.

Dear Friend:

In reply to your letter of September twenty-sixth, I have to advise that we have no record of literary work done by pupils of this school. However, upon inquiry, I find that <sup>you</sup> made a good record while at this school, and are one of Carlisle's progressive ex-students. I hope this will answer your purpose, and if there is anything more I can do, please let me know.

With best wishes for your future success, I remain,

Very truly yours,

SR

Supervisor in Charge.

Martin, South Dakota.

Sept. 26, 1914.

Mr. Osear H. Lipps,

Supervisor in charge.  
Carlisle, Pa.

Dear sir:

I write to ask a favor of you relative to my standing in literary work up to the year 1888. There was no such thing as graduating class at that time, but any way I was in the class with Joel Tyndall who graduated in the year 1889, the first graduating class as shown in the record.

What I want is a certificate or paper showing my standing in the school and literary attainment so that I may fullfil a requirement asked of me by our General Missionary whà is in charge of the Indian field in the Missionary Distriet of South Dakota, and who recommends certain Catechists or lay-readers to be ordained Deacons. I have been a worker in the field for many years, and recently I was asked to furnish certain papers and this is one of them. Hoping to hear from you soon. Give my regards to employees I know, if any.

Yours truly, -

*George Fire Thunder*

Swain, S.D.

RECORD OF GRADUATES AND RETURNED STUDENTS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

Name George Fire Thunder

1. Are you married and if so to whom? Mary Bissonette

2. What is your present address? Pine Ridge, S. D.

3. Did you attend or graduate from any other schools after leaving Carlisle? Give names of school and dates if possible. None

4. What is your present occupation? Salary? Catechist in Episcopal Church. 18<sup>quart</sup> 18<sup>00</sup> per. month

5. Do you own your home? Yes.

6. What kind of a house is it? Number of rooms? Frame house - 4 rooms

7. How much property do you possess?

Stock 7 horses 13 cattle

Land 1970 acres

Real Estate

8. Do you have money in the bank? No How much? —

9. Have you been in the Indian Service? In what positions? How long in each?

4 years as Turner and Painter at Pine Ridge Agency.

10. What other positions have you held since leaving Carlisle?

Clerk in store 2 years.

11. Have you done anything for the betterment of your people? Write fully

I have always endeavored to make the Indians look at the better side of things in this life - to live a better life.

And my hope is that eventually they will see the folly of old customs and grow more civilized.

12. Tell me anything else of interest connected with your life.

My most ardent hope is that in the future we will have some educated Indians that will rival in greatness some of our great white brothers. And I see only one path that will make this possible - Have the white people in our midst so that we can get an example from him day by day and assimilate his customs & ways.

We have had a few officers of the Government with us in the past, but their influence has been, as a whole very bad - because the Indian's welfare was not theirs - and their whole ambition was to gain money by any means. Of course we have had a number of good men, but their number is comparatively small. Therefore I must

insist that the only salvation for the Indian of today lies in the intermingling of the White people among them. In that way they will acquire her ways and grow more civilized. They will become industrious - wealthy and more educated.

Also the returned students should be given an opportunity to fill positions that requires an amount of education which they possess. I think that the educated Indians should be given their rights as a citizen, instead of delaying it for an indefinite length of time - perhaps 25 years. Then the Education he has had will be put to a test & be of some practical good.



1850

March 8, 1913

Name Geo. F. Thurman  
(Please give name by which enrolled and also present or married name.)

Tribe Oglala Sioux

Present Address Martin Co. Dak.

Former Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address from which we heard from you last.)

Present Occupation Church Work & Co. Commissioner

Remarks: I live on my place as a farmer

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Department of the Interior.



Mr. M. Friedman

Supt. U. S. Indian School

Carlisle

Pennsylvania





