CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL

http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu

Digital Resource Center

THE CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL

Richard Henry Pratt established the Carlisle Indian School in 1879 in Carlisle, PA as part of his vision for educating Native American children by removing them from their homes, their families, their communities, and their cultures. More than 10,000 students from across the United States and Puerto Rico were enrolled at the school from 1879 to 1918. The school at Carlisle served as a model for 24 off-reservation boarding schools around the country. Today the school grounds are an important site of memory for many Native peoples, and the institution's history is a source of study for students and scholars around the globe.



Since the Carlisle Indian School's closure in 1918, documentation regarding the school and its students has become widely

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has become widely
disbursed. This Web site
represents an effort to
aid the research process
by bringing together, in
digital format, a variety
of resources that are
physically preserved in
various locations around
the country. Through
these resources, we seek

to increase knowledge and understanding of the school and its complex legacy, while also facilitating efforts to tell the stories of the many thousands of students who were sent there.

The first stage of this project is to digitize the school records housed at the U.S. National Archives as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs papers. In May 2013 we began the multi-year process of scanning the files of individual students and photographing the



institution's enrollment ledgers. To date, the files of more than 1,600 individual students have been uploaded, along with hundreds of images and several publications. Transcribed copies of various school registers have also been added to the site.

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In addition to digitizing this official documentation, we will also seek partners among those institutions that hold personal papers regarding the school, its many students, and its instructors. Several organizations and institutions have expressed an interest in contributing, and discussions are underway to add their material to the resource center.

Subsequent phases of this project will develop the capability for user interactivity, so that individuals may contribute their own digitized photos, documents, oral histories, and other personal materials to the online collection. As this Web site develops, it will also host teaching and learning materials utilizing the digitized content, and will support the addition of original scholarly and popular works based on the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center materials.

PROJECT LEADERS

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