

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC  
Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

## RECORDS OF THE CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania was established in 1879 and was closed in 1918. It was the first Government operated nonreservation boarding school for Indians. An outstanding feature of the school was the "outing" system, which permitted students to live and work outside the school and to attend public school while still enrolled at Carlisle.

Although there are now in the National Archives more records of the Carlisle School than of any other Indian school, these records are very incomplete. There is very little correspondence, and there are serious gaps in other records. Most of the records relate to individual students and these are very incomplete also. Since the school made some attempt to keep track of students after they left the school, the records may include information concerning a former student up to the time the school was closed. The school's records now in the National Archives were transferred to the central office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs when the school was closed; and some additions were made to these records while they were in the custody of the Bureau.

The National Archives does not do genealogical research for you. All we can do is tell you about the records that may help you in your search, and offer you copies. If you think your ancestor attended Carlisle Indian School, we can see if we have a student folder for that person. You can also search this on ARC. Go to our home site, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and click on search ARC, put in ARC id 300327 for Carlisle student folders, then where it says there are 6160 files units described in ARC, you can click on a search box and put in the name.

If you think your ancestor went to Carlisle and we do not have a student folder, you are welcome to come research the records yourself, such as for example, the Registers of Pupils, Records of Outings, and various publications that contain news items on students.

ENTRY 1322. INDEX TO LETTERS RECEIVED. ca. 1905. 1 vol.

An alphabetical index to names of addressees and subjects of letters. The letters themselves have not been located.

ENTRY 1323. LETTERS SENT. August 28- October 22, 1900; January 26-May 6, 1901. 2 vols. Press copies of letters sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, field officials of the Bureau, pupils and their parents, merchants, transportation agents, and others. The letters relate to enrollment and transportation of pupils, personnel matters, purchases of supplies and equipment, appropriations, and many other subjects. Arranged chronologically. In each volume there is an alphabetical index to names of addressees. Although there must have been many volumes of letters sent, these two volumes are the only ones known to be extant.

ENTRY 1324. REGISTERS OF PUPILS. 1890-1906. 2 vols.

One volume is for the years 1890-1900; the other volume, for the years 1899-1906. Each volume is divided into several sections; and each section provides different information about individual pupils. The sections are designated as follows: "Descriptive Record of Students as Admitted," "Sent to Country Homes," "Discharged from School," "Death Record," and "Historical Record" (not used in the second volume). Entries in each section are arranged chronologically, except that those for boys maybe separated from those for girls. There is an alphabetical name index in each volume. For a less detailed consecutive record of pupils enrolled for the years 1905-18, see entry 1325. For more information concerning individual pupils, see the folders and cards described in entries 1327-1330.

ENTRY 1325. CONSECUTIVE RECORD OF PUPILS ENROLLED. 1905-18. 1 vol.

Entries for individual pupils give enrollment number, name, tribe, and date of entry in school. Entries for boys are separate d from those for girls. Arranged by enrollment number, which was assigned in rough chronological order by date of enrollment. For earlier and more detailed registers of pupils, see entry 1324. For more detailed information concerning individual pupils, see the folders and cards described in entries 1327-1330.

ENTRY 1326. INDEXES TO STUDENT RECORDS. 1879-1918.

Slips for individual students, giving folder' number for records concerning the student among those described in entry 1327, name, tribe, State of residence, sometimes class year, and some indication (usually incomplete) of the records available. There are also slips for students for whom there are only card records (see entry 1328). There are three sets of index slips: (1) slips, which are arranged by folder number; (2) slips, which are arranged alphabetically by surname of student; and (3) slips, which are arranged alphabetically by name of tribe and thereunder alphabetically by name of student.

ENTRY 1327. STUDENT RECORDS. 1879-1918.

Letters received, copies of letters sent, applications for enrollment, cards designated as "Descriptive and Historical Record of Student," promotion certificates (including ratings in subjects), records of "outings," medical and dental records, form reports concerning post school careers, records from other schools, information forms concerning eligibility for Federal aid, clippings, photographs, and other records concerning individual students. The records relate to enrollment, transportation, progress at school, "outings," health, financial affairs, withdrawals from school, careers after leaving school, special problems, and other subjects. Quantity and type of records for individual students vary; there are, in general, more records for the later years than the earlier ones. A few post-1918 records, added after the records were transferred to the Bureau, relate mainly to requests for information. There are separate folders for individual students, which are arranged numerically in the same order as the numerical index described in entry 1326. Although there is some chronological and alphabetical pattern in the order of the folder numbers, it is necessary to use the alphabetical index (see entry 1326) to locate readily the records for a particular student. For separate card records, including some for students for whom there is no folder, see entries 1328-1330.

**ENTRY 1327A. REPORTS ON EXAMINATIONS AND PROMOTIONS OF PUPILS, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA, 1917-18.**

Arranged in chronological order. Most of the series consists of "Reports on Examinations" with a separate sheet for each class. The classes are categorized as being primary, vocational, or pre-vocational courses. For each student is listed: name, sex, age, day's attendance, grades in English, grades in other subjects, a general average, and an action. On the reverse of the sheet is a summary that was not consistently filled out. The "Report on Promotions of Pupils", of which there is only one for the 1916-17 academic year, lists annual enrollment, enrollments for June, number of pupils examined, number of pupils passed, number conditioned, number failed, percentage passed per pupils examined, and percentage passed per annual enrollment. All of these statistics are broken down by gender. On the back of the form is a summary of pupils promoted.

**ENTRY 1328. STUDENT RECORD CARDS. 1879-1918.**

Cards designated as "Descriptive and Historical Record" of Student, enrollment cards, and cards concerning student's potential and actual employment after leaving Carlisle. In most instances these cards are for students for whom there is no folder among the records described in entry 1327. The cards are divided into two groups; in each group they are arranged alphabetically by surname of student. Similar cards are in the main series of student records (entry 1327). See also the student information cards and enrollment cards described in entries 1329 and 1330.

**ENTRY 1329. STUDENT INFORMATION CARDS. 1879-1918.**

Cards for individual students may give name, tribe, agency, age, degree of Indian blood, name of father, date of arrival at Carlisle, date of and reason for departure, time spent on "outings," trade, name of person to whom married, character rating, religion, date of death, and other information. The cards are divided into the following groups: girls, boys, graduates, dead graduates, dead girls, dead boys (cards for students with surnames beginning with letters L-Z are missing), and students enrolled in 1918. Thereunder they are arranged for the most part alphabetically by surname of student. A card for any one student will be found in only one group. Unlike the kinds of record cards described in entry 1328, many of which are filed with the student folders described in entry 1327, all extant cards are filed in this series. See also the enrollment cards (entry 1330).

**ENTRY 1330. ENROLLMENT CARDS. ca. 1897-1913.**

Cards for individual students give name, tribe, date of entry, age, and information concerning room assignments, promotions, "outings," leaves, and other changes in status. Information given on the back of the cards includes ratings on conduct, application, class standing, and health. The cards are arranged into two general groups--for boys and for girls, respectively--with some smaller groups for those in special status. Thereunder they are arranged for the most part alphabetically by surname of student. For other records concerning individual students, see entries 1324-1329.

**ENTRY 1331. ATTENDANCE BOOKS. 1884-91. 2 vols.**

These books are labeled "morning reports." For each day there is information concerning the number of pupils present, the number of pupils absent, and the reasons for absences.

There are notations concerning individual pupils. In the second volume there is also some information concerning school employees.

ENTRY 1332. ENROLLMENT STATUS BOOK. 1898-1902. 1 vol.

For each month there are symbol notations for each student. There are also written comments. Boys and girls are listed in separate sections; entries in each section are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of student.

ENTRY 1333. DATA CONCERNING FORMER STUDENTS. ca. 1898. 1 vol.

Given for individual former students are name, tribe, address, and some comment on his or her life after leaving Carlisle. Arranged by class year. For more detailed information concerning students after they left Carlisle, see the records described in entries 1327-1329.

ENTRY 1334. REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT WORKERS. 1885-90. 1 vol.

Entries for individual applications give name of applicant, address, date of application or date of its receipt, date when work was required, and kind of work. Often included are the name and address of person given as reference, name of pupil selected, and other information. Applications for boys are entered on separate pages from applications for girls. Entries are arranged in rough chronological order by date of receipt of application.

ENTRY 1335. REGISTERS OF "OUTINGS." 1881-87, 1912-18. 4 vols.

Individual entries give name of pupil, date of placement or of leaving school, name of patron and his address, date of return to school (when applicable), and sometimes other information. Entries for boys and those for girls are listed separately: entries for both are in the same volume for the years 1881-87, but they are in separate volumes for the later years. (There are two volumes for girls for the years 1912-18; there is a volume for boys for the years 1915-17). The entries within each volume or part of a volume are arranged in rough chronological order by date of pupil's placement or of his leaving school. New lists, however, were started periodically, and names of pupils who had not yet returned to school were reentered in the register. In the individual volumes there are alphabetical indexes to names of pupils and of patrons.

ENTRY 1336. LEDGERS FOR STUDENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS. 1890-1918. 10 vols.

Ledgers containing accounts of individual students as well as accounts for clubs and special funds. There is information concerning deposits and withdrawals, usually with an indication of the source or reason for each. Accounts for boys are in separate volumes from those for girls. There is a separate volume for special accounts. The accounts in each volume are in rough chronological order by date of first entry; the entries for individual accounts are arranged chronologically. There are name indexes in the individual volumes. Some of the volumes are missing.

ENTRY 1337. JOURNAL FOR PAYMENTS TO BOYS. 1908-12. 1 vol.

Given for individual payments are date, reason (usually wages or fare ), name of boy to whom paid, and amount. Entries are arranged chronologically. There is an alphabetical name index in the volume.

ENTRY 1338. JOURNAL FOR YWCA ACCOUNT. 1910-14. 1 vol.

A record of credits and debits to funds of club. Entries are arranged chronologically.

ENTRY 1339. MINUTES OF THE INVINCIBLE DEBATING SOCIETY. 1894-1918. 3 vols.

Minutes of meetings of the Society, which was composed of boys in the school. Arranged chronologically. There are rolls of members in the front of each volume. In the first volume there are also a copy of the Society's constitution and a copy of its bylaws.

ENTRY 1340. ADDRESS BOOK FOR HOME LETTERS. ca. 1894. 1 vol.

Contains names of students (sometimes on printed rosters) and names, addresses, and sometimes relationships of persons to whom students wrote.

ENTRY 1341. REGISTER OF VISITORS. 1909-17. 1 vol.

A register that was signed by the visitors themselves. Each entry includes name and address of visitor and date of visit.

ENTRY 1342. RECORD OF SEWING ROOM SUPPLIES AND PRODUCTS. 1901-1908.

Included are inventories of supplies on hand and records of receipts, use of supplies, and distributions of finished products. Arranged in rough chronological order.

ENTRY 1343. RECORD OF ISSUE OF GOODS. 1905-1906. 1 vol.

A record for fiscal year 1906. Given are dates and amounts for issues of different kinds of goods. Entries are arranged by kind of goods and thereunder chronologically. There is an alphabetical index to kinds of goods.

ENTRY 1344. TIME BOOKS FOR EMPLOYEES. 1907-10, 1917-18. 2 vols.

For each day there is a symbol notation indicating the presence or absence of each employee. For most periods there is also information concerning employee's pay rate and the amount he was actually paid. A few loose records concerning personnel matters have been inserted in one of the volumes. No time books have been found for the period November 1910-December 1916.

ENTRY 1344A. RECORDS RELATING TO CARLISLE SCHOOL – PERSONNEL.

Arranged in alphabetical order by surname, thereunder in reverse chronological order. Series consists of personnel files, some of which appear to be official personnel folders. Several recurring types of documents are found in each file. Efficiency reports, which were standardized forms filled out by supervisors, rated employees based on varied criteria and included a narrative comment section. Oaths of office and a personnel record that chronicled the individual's service and changes in position are included. There is

also correspondence on changes of position and duty station, disputes, recommendations, and letters of resignation. Records are present for only five employees, three of whom held the position of superintendent of the school.

ENTRY 1345. STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. 1879-99. 3 vols. These volumes are labeled "Cash Books." Entries for receipts and for disbursements are on facing pages. Individual entries for receipts give date, source, usually the draft number, appropriation headings, amount under each appropriation, and total amount received. Individual entries for disbursements give date, name of person or firm to whom paid, voucher number (or other identification), appropriation headings, amount under each appropriation, and total amount disbursed. Entries for receipts and for disbursements are arranged chronologically. For similar records for the years 1907-17, see entry 1346. No similar records have been found for the period April 1899-June 1907.

ENTRY 1346. RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS UNDER VARIOUS FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS. 1907-17. 3 vols.

Entries for individual receipts or disbursements give date, from whom received or to whom disbursed, purpose, quarter of year, voucher number, and amount received or disbursed under different appropriation headings. Arranged chronologically. A loose alphabetical index to names of persons and firms has been inserted in the second volume. For similar records for the years 1879-99, see entry 1345. No similar records have been found for the period April 1899-June 1907.

ENTRY 1347. ANALYZED LIABILITIES AND VOUCHERED EXPENDITURES. 1916-17.

Given are figures concerning liabilities under different headings (such as employees and buildings). There are also monthly figures for vouchered expenditures. Arranged by appropriation item; thereunder there are "controlling sheets" on which the entries are arranged chronologically and "activity sheets" on which the entries are arranged by type of activity (such as administration, health, and education).

ENTRY 1348. APPROPRIATION LEDGER. 1917-18.

Given are figures concerning debits and credits to appropriated funds. Entries are arranged by appropriation item and thereunder chronologically.

ENTRY 1349. CASH AND CHECK REGISTERS. 1917-18.

Given is information concerning receipts and deposits of cash and also concerning deposits in and payments from U.S. Treasury checking account. There are two registers: a check register and a cash register. Entries in each register are arranged chronologically.

ENTRY 1349A. "THE RED MAN AND HELPER," PUBLISHED AND PRINTED BY THE INDIAN SCHOOL, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA, 1898-1903. 2 vols.

Arranged chronologically. First known as "The Red Man", it became "The Red Man and Helper" in July 1900. It was published monthly "in the interest of Indian education and civilization" and printed by the students. Starting in July 1900 the format changed to weekly, published on Fridays. Included are articles about the school, literary works and

poetry (mainly from outside sources but sometimes by the students), speeches by the Commissioner, local news, opinion pieces, articles on Indian issues culled from the national press, advice columns, puzzles and word games. The paper featured a significant number of photographs and illustrations.

ENTRY 1349B. CORRESPONDENCE FILE, ca. 1916-66.

Arranged chronologically. Consists of a single file bound in a format similar to the Central Classified Files with "Opened Nov. 1, 1879 – June 30, 1918" written on the front cover. The correspondence consists mainly of inquiries from members of the public regarding the school which closed in June 1918. The responses from the Bureau referred the inquiries to NARA which received custody of the Carlisle records sometime in the 1940s. Included are copies of informational sheets regarding the school that may have been used as standard responses to inquiries from the public. Among these are lists of Carlisle graduate from 1889 to 1915.

ENTRY 1349C. MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS Relating to Indian Schools, ca. 1908-18.

Arranged into several major sub-series, thereunder chronologically. The major sub-series are: *The Red Man* (Apr. 1910-Oct. 1916), a monthly published by the Carlisle Indian press advertised as "a magazine not only about Indians, but mainly by Indians"; *The Carlisle Arrow* (May 1913-July 1916), a weekly newspaper; and *The Carlisle Arrow and Red Man* (Oct. 1917-May 1918), also a weekly. They featured articles on all facets of current Indian life, sometimes focusing on a single theme for an entire issue such as "Indian babies" and were heavily illustrated. Also included are school catalogues, calendars, commencement programs, and a 1939 copy of *Indians at Work* highlighting an article by "Pop" Warner about the Carlisle football program. At the end are several miscellaneous items from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century including a newspaper article on the Carlisle football team. A NARA-prepared finding aid is included.