





#### A Brief History of Indian Boarding Schools

The Indian School concept came from Richard Pratt, a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. It was called "Richard Pratt's Civilization Program". Pratt's thinking was to "civilize" the Indian by a re-training program that would model the Indian into the "white man's" way and rid them of their "heathen ways". With Congress's backing, Pratt then went to the Indians and told them that the only way not to be exterminated was to learn to read, write, think and act as European-American. Pratt opened the first Indian School, Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which had been an abandoned cavalry barracks, in Pennsylvania in 1879 with 169 students the first year.

In 1891 Congress passed a compulsory attendance law for American Indians. Congress allowed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to withhold food rations and supplies from the Indian parents or guardians who refused to enroll and keep their children in the off-reservation Boarding Schools.

The curriculum at the schools was mainly focused on trades for the boys, which consisted of farming, carpentry, (blacksmithing, harness making, even though antiquated, was taught through the 1930's), after 1922, auto mechanics, work with gasoline engines and barbers. The girl's curriculum was mainly domestic training, including sewing, cooking, baking, laundering, housekeeping and nursing, after the 1930's beauticians and cosmetology.

Life on the campus was run military style and was strictly regimented. The students lived in dormitories which were usually overcrowded and the girls had a "Matron"

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in their dorm who kept an eye on the building and the girls.

Illness was a problem because of poor nutrition, unsanitary conditions and the close living situation of the students. Often, medical care was irregular, illnesses such as Measles, Mumps, Tuberculosis, Whooping Cough, Trachoma, Small Pox and Influenza would spread at an alarming rate. The Meriam Report of 1928 stated that death rates for Native American students were six and a half times higher than for other ethnic groups at that time.

When a student died, the student would be either sent home to be buried, if requested by parent or guardian or buried in the school's cemetery.

Not everything about the Indian Boarding Schools was negative. The art of quilting was taught, turning into an art form and a symbol of pride for the women. Many students met, made friends and married into other tribes which created political alliances.

In 1910 there were 25 non-reservation Indian Boarding Schools in operation in the United States, some were turned into higher educational facilities and are still open today.

#### Some of the Schools are still open:

Carlisle Indian Industrial Boarding School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is today the U.S. Army War College.

Haskell Indian Industrial Training School, Lawrence, Kansas, is today Haskell Indian Nations University.

Flandreau Indian School, Flandreau, South Dakota, is today still run as a higher educational Off-reservation Indian Boarding School.

# MESA DWELLERS

#### **In Memoriam**

Betty Jane "BJ" Grosskopf January 26, 1924 – February 13, 2013



Betty Jane "BJ" Grosskopf, 89, Grand Junction, CO, died February 13, 2013, at the Hospice Care Center. No Formal service will be held. BJ was a registered nurse and head nurse at St. Mary's Outpatient Surgery. She was very

interested in genealogy and was a long time active member of the Mesa County Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Survivors include one son, Bruno in Bonaire, GA and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mesa County Public Library Foundation, P.O. Box 3668, Grand Junction, CO, 81502.

I would like to thank Karen Grew-Ellison for her help in obtaining the pictures of the Indian Students for this newsletter. A big thank you to my husband also, who was an enormous help in the making of this Issue.

Kathie Vlahos - Editor

Have anything for the newsletter? Please contact Kathie Vlahos or Karen Grew-Ellison or go to:

directly to the editors.

Mesa County Genealogical Society Mesa Dwellers Volume 33 / Issue 1 / March 2013 / Page 2 The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

#### **Objectives:**

 To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.

4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the  $2^{nd}$  Thursday of each month at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 ½ Road at 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the  $2^{nd}$  floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5<sup>th</sup> & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm - 2pm.

Society Officers President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Board Members Jan Wilson Jill Berthod Karen Grew-Ellison

Standing Committee Chairpersons Historian/Archivist Co-Genealogist/Librarian Co-Genealogist/Librarian Newsletter Editor Assistant Editor Society Webmaster Parliamentarian Program Director Research Director Membership/Education/Outreach Dennis Jenkins Iris Krogh Donna Jackson Anita Caldwell

<u>3 year Term</u> 2011-2012-2013 2012-2013-2014 2013-2014-2015

> Jan Wilson Kay Oxer Linda Garey Kathie Vlahos Karen Grew-Ellison Caley Gredig Vacant Dennis Jenkins Bob Cress Caley Gredig & Jill Berthod

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members). Those with unpaid dues after April 30<sup>th</sup> of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

You can also go to the newsletter. Contributions are encouraged and appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries. articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

### March 2013 ~ June 2013 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

1 March 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Palisade Library Branch.
14 March 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Topic to be decided.
27 March 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Topic to be decided.
5 April 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at a Branch Library.
11 April 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Topic to be decided.
24 April 2013	Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Topic to be decided.
3 May 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at a Branch Library.
9 May 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Topic to be decided.
22 May 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Topic to be decided.

### **President's Message**

I'm going to talk about websites again. Over the last few years, our Editor Kathie Vlahos has featured many of the articles found on Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter (EOGN). You can subscribe for "free" to his newsletter blog that comes out every day or so at <u>www.eogn.com</u> and will show up in your email. He also adds some "Plus" articles that require you to be a paid member to be able to read. This service costs \$19.95 per year.

One of the items he lists periodically is the new databases being added to the <u>www.FamilySearch.org</u> website. As the films and books in the Salt Lake City Family History Library are being digitized and indexed, they are added to the website. I have often used the list at <u>www.eogn.com</u> to just click on the new one I'm interested in and it takes me right to the database at <u>www.FamilySearch.org</u>.

You might also want to consider signing up to be an indexer for <u>www.FamilySeach.org</u>. It is quite easy and usually takes about 30 minutes to complete each page that you are assigned. They usually give you a week to complete it.

I'm also subscribed to the "Ancestry Insider" at <u>www.http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/</u>. It is described as "The unofficial, unauthorized view of Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. The Ancestry Insider reports on, defends, and constructively criticizes these two websites and associated topics. The author attempts to fairly and evenly support both." I think you will enjoy reading what he reports on these two important websites. You can view the blogs at the above website or subscribe to receive them in your email.

On a sad note, I want to highlight the In Memoriam in this issue for Betty Jane (Gifford) Grosskopf, a long time member who passed away on February 13, 2013. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Dennis Jenkins, President, MCGS

# Was your Ancestor an Educator or Student at Teller Institute - Grand Junction Indian School?

The Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute was an off-reservation Indian Boarding School in Grand Junction, Colorado. It was in operation from 1886-1911.

The school was built with the intention that it would be for the Ute children and young adults from the Uintah and Ouray reservations in Utah, and the Southern and Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in Colorado. However, because of several conflicts between the settlers of Colorado and the Ute Indians, the Ute's did not want to send their children back to Colorado, so the main body of the students came from other tribes and states throughout the school's history. Because of these problems, only a small percentage of the Ute's ever attended the Grand Junction Indian School over the time span that it was open.

In 1885 the school was approved, the town of Grand Junction donated 160 acres of land and the federal government appropriated \$23,000.00 for the buildings. The Grand Junction Indian School officially opened in the fall of 1886.

In 1886 the student body totaled 27 students, coming from the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah, the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado, the Paiute Pyramid Lakes Reservation, Nevada and Paiute Walker River Reservation, Nevada.

In 1891 the school was renamed Teller Institute after Senator Henry M. Teller. The school was in operation for 25 years, closing in 1911. It was then taken over by the State of Colorado and converted into a Horticultural school. Today it is the Grand Junction Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities.

The school had many problems during its 25 year history, a few being poor management, faculty dissent and water and sewage drainage problems which resulted in the buildings being periodically flooded. The soil was also very alkali making it very hard to farm. However, in several annual government reports that I read, the superintendents praised the children's accomplishments and abilities, stating most of the problems of the school were due to other factors.

One advantage of the Indian Boarding Schools is the extensive collection of government reports and records that were kept. You can find these documents at googlebooks.com. The documents contain detailed information concerning the administration of the school, names of faculty and students. An individual, genealogist or family historian, who believes they may have connections to the Grand Junction Indian School - Teller Institute in Grand Junction, CO., could find these records to be a rich source of information in researching their ancestors.

The Teller Institute Grand Junction, Co.

Circa 1910

Teller Institute School Band performing for the Grand Army of the Republic, Post #35 on the school grounds.

Photo Courtesy of the Loyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO. February 2013



# Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute, School Employees

Below are listed the names of the faculty at Teller Institute and their positions.

Faculty	Positions	Faculty	Positions	
School Year 1886-1887		School Year 1890-1891		
W.I. Davis	Superintendent	S. P. Record	Superintendent	
J.J. Robertson	Physician and clerk	Theo. G. Lemmon	Superintendent	
Thomas Griffith	Principle teacher	Herman R. Bull	Physician	
Minnie Henderson	Teacher	Freddie A. Hough	Teacher	
Minnie Henderson	Teacher	Allie V. Busbie	Teacher	
Elizabeth H. Willaner	Matron	Lillie B. Crawford	Teacher	
Frank S. Whitson	Industrial Teacher	M.V. Lemmon	Teacher	
Alice Hughes	Cook	Geo. P. Chilies	Industrial Teacher	
Mrs. Frank Whitson	Cook	Harry A. Spencer	Farmer and I. Teacher	
Albert Hovich	Cook	W.D. Bales	Farmer and I. Teacher	
Matilda J. Shott	Laundress	Elma G. Gowan	Matron	
Annie Hughes	Laundress	Mina Squires	Matron	
Lena Koechle	Laundress	Ellen W. A. Fisk	Matron	
		John Hines	Cook	
School Year 1887-188	38	Henry Webber	Cook	
W.I Davis	Superintendent	Chas. G. Jordan	Cook	
Thomas H. Breen	Superintendent	Kate Richardson	Laundress	
J.J. Robertson	Clerk & Physician	Jennie E. Chiles	Seamstress	
Thomas Griffith	Principle Teacher	Eva T. Spencer	Seamstress	
B.J. Mooney	Principle Teacher	Rose Bales	Seamstress	
Minnie Henderson	Teacher	Hugh Glassford	Carpenter	
Jessie Jane Mooney	Teacher	Geo. W. Bales	Carpenter	
Frank S. Whitson	Industrial Teacher			
William Bomgardner	Industrial Teacher	School Year 1892-189	3	
Martin Florida	Industrial Teacher	T. G. Lemmon	Superintendent	
J.T. Krigbum	Industrial Teacher	Charles H. Schooley	Clerk	
Elizabeth H. Willaner	Matron	James G. Skinner	Principle, Teacher	
Loretta J. Florida	Seamstress		and Disciplinarian	
Jeanie T. Breen	Seamstress	M. V. Lemmon	Teacher	
Albert Habich	Cook	Herman R. Bull	Physician	
Lena Keochle	Cook	George W. Bales	Farmer, I. Teacher	
Dora Steele	Cook	O.G. Carner	Carpenter	
George E. Johnson	Cook	Nathan Whitmire	Cook	
Loretta J. Florida	Cook	Adela Alexander	Seamstress	
Thomas Charleston	Cook	Kate Richardson	Laundress	
Emiel Osterloh	Cook	Joe D. Oliver	Shoe and Harness	
William T. Roberts	Cook	Hortense Castlice	Matron	
James B. King	Cook	School Year 1898-189	9	
Lena Koechle	Laundress	Theo. G. Lemmon	Superintendent	
Clara Koechle	Laundress	Charles S. Woodin	Clerk	
Kate Richardson	Laundress	Herman H. Bull	Physician	
E.W. Gannon	Carpenter	Mame B. Cone	Principal Teacher	
Felix Toupain	Carpenter	Continued on page 6		

#### School Year 1898-1899 – Continued from page 5 Teacher

Emma L. Kaufman Aura L. Fitch Lilly Complainville Luther E. Potter Martha Wheelan Bertha Standing Kate Richardson Ellen W. A. Fisk Allison R. Betz O.G. Carner **Christ Wuest** Arthur Upshaw **Charles Boyd** 

Teacher Teacher Farmer Assistant Matron Seamstress Laundress Cook Farmer Carpenter Tailor Shoe and Harness Night Watchman

#### School Year 1902-1903

Theo. G. Lemmon Superintendent O.C. Keller Clerk Herman R. Bull Walter P. Squires Frank A. Virtue Lillian T. Keller Lucy M. Bayles Mary H. White Ardelle B. McQuesten Sarah E. Kierstead Kate Richardson Louisa E. Gates Jennie E. Davis Eleanor E. Bryan

Physician Disciplinarian **Principle Teacher** Teacher Teacher Matron Assistant Matron Nurse Seamstress Laundress Cook Matron

Superintendent

#### School Year 1904-1905

Chas. E. Burton

#### School Year 1904-1905 - Continued

Ella L. Burton Herman C. Haffner Mary V. Rice Elisa A. McLaughlin Mary H. White Willena S. Ezelle Mabel V. Van Brunt Mary Ziellan Lizzie Erwin Mary C. Parker Ole Askesen Marin Hocker Oscar B. Wilmis Elsie A. McLaughlin

**Financial Clerk** Disciplinarian Teacher Teacher Matron Assistant Matron Nurse Seamstress Laundress Cook Carpenter Shoe and Harness Engineer Teacher

#### School Year 1909-1910

Charles E. Burton Ella L. Burton Henry N. Crouse Clifford M. Ellis Ray E. Cherrick Blanch M. Lyon Katherine Easlougher Nora A. Buzzard **Minnie Ellis** Elizabeth Cherrick **Rozella Richards** Saul Halyse Domego Blackwater **Tillford Denver** Jefferson Rice John Smith

Superintendent **Financial Clerk** Clerk Officer Teacher Teacher Teacher Matron Matron Assistant Matron Laundress Printer Carpenter Farmer Engineer Night Watchman

**Teller Institute Girls** Mandolin Club

Circa 1910

Photo Courtesy of the Loyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO. February 2013



# 1900 and 1910 United States Census for Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute Students

The 1900 U.S. Federal Census for the Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute of the Indian students was different as they are on a separate census which was called the "Indian Population Census". I found the "Indian Population Census" (shown below) on familysearch.org. This census was harder to find, so I have included the steps; Familysearch.org, All Records Collection, US 1900 Census, browse images, Colorado, Mesa Co., ED 74 Precinct 1 Allen (incl. Grand Junction Indian Training School). There are 10 images to look at for the school. The Indian enumerations have two parts on a page; the first part listed the student's name, place of birth, place of birth of father and mother. The second part under the title of "Special Inquiries Relating to Indians", repeated the name of the student above, the tribe of the student, the tribe which the father and mother were from and if the student were of mixed blood or not and if of mixed blood, the percentage.

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I could not find an "Indian Population Census" for the Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute in the 1910 Census. I did find the school under the normal census listing on ancestry.com. Here again I browsed the 1910 census under Colorado, Mesa County. I found the school under Allen Township, the listing starts on image 9. Below is a list of the student's names.

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Teller Institute Boys Football Team

Circa 1910

Photo Courtesy of the Loyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO. February 2013



Between 1890 and 1911 - The Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute in Grand Junction excelled under the management of Thomas Jefferson Morgan, a commissioner of Indian affairs. His plans were to make the school become a great place for Indian students to learn. Part of his plan involved getting the town's people active with the Indian school just as they were with all the other schools in the area. With diligent hard effort, Morgan's plan succeeded and the school grew in size and prospered. The school's band and sport's program were excellent and well respected.

Today the Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute's old school grounds are home to The Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities

Picture taken with Permission from The Regional Center For Developmental Disabilities February 2013



#### **References:**

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# Additional sources for the Grand Junction Indian School – Teller Institute and Indian Boarding Schools in the United States

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"The Story of the Ute and the Grand Junction Indian School" By Craig H. Blackman, published in the Whispering Wind magazine, Issue #259/ Vol. 37 #3

#### Websites for additional information on Indian Research:

National Archives (NARA) – Indians/Native Americans, links to American history relating to Native Americans, http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/native-americans.html

National Archives (NARA) - Records of Students Transferred to Off-Reservation Schools, ca. 1885-1912, http://research.archives.gov/description/295112

Fold3 - Native American Collection, http://go.fold3.com/native americans/

NativeWeb – A collection of helpful websites to aid in the tracing of Native American ancestry, <u>http://www.nativeweb.org/resources/genealogy\_tracing\_roots\_/</u>

Access Genealogy, Native American – Indian Genealogy, history and information on research of all tribes, <a href="http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/">http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/</a>

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## It is that time of year again! 2013 renewals are due starting March 1, 2013.

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