

A Guide to the Virginia Department of Education Indian School records, 1936-1968

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 29632
Library of Virginia
2022

History

Reprocessed by: E. Alexander

Title Statement

A Guide to the Virginia Department of Education Indian School records, 1936-1968

Subtitle: 29632

Author: E. Alexander

Publication Statement

Date: © 2022 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record by , May 2022

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

29632

Language

English

Creator

Virginia Department of Education

Extent

4 cu. ft. (5 boxes)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The educational records of former students who are living are restricted until the student is deceased. If the former student cannot be traced, the records are closed for 75 years (2043). (20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). A list of students whose records are restricted is in each box for reference when releasing or redacting records.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

This collection was transferred by the Virginia Dept. of Education in 1976.

Processing Information

This collection was reprocessed in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Virginia Dept. of Education, Indian School Files, 1936-1968. Accession 29632, State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Information

After years of violent conquest at the hands of the English colonizers throughout the Anglo-Powhatan Wars, the Treaty of 1646 established Anglo designated reservation lands for the Pamunkey, Weyanock, and Chiskiack with additional provisions for the Mattaponi, as well as at least nine other tribal groups. While the Treaty of 1677 at Middle Plantation re-established these holdings, due to subsequent colonial pressure, illegal seizures of land, and Native population depletion from disease, violence, and forced resettlement, by the 19th century the only reservation lands, still diminished but intact, belonged to the Pamunkey and Mattaponi.

Prior to the Civil War, education was largely an individual endeavor reserved primarily for white elites who were able to afford the expense. This changed when the 1869 Virginia Constitution established the state's first public education system, and in less than a year an 1870 Act passed by the General Assembly dictated that the schools be racially segregated. As a result, localities prohibited Native children from attending white public schools and instead required them to attend schools established for Virginia's Black children. Instead of complying, many Virginia tribal groups created their own schools solely for Native children.

The Pamunkey and Mattaponi reservations worked together to establish, staff, and fund an educational network for their children through the 1870-1890s. While both operated schools on their respective reservations prior to the 1910s, the schools were difficult to support due to inadequate resources and staff. Chief George F. Custalow of the Mattaponi advocated for better resources for the school and with the help of a 1916 ruling by the Assistant Attorney General of Virginia, Leslie C. Garnett, it was determined that citizens of a reservation were "wards of the State" and not citizens of the locality. This resulted in the Virginia Department of Education agreeing to allocate an annual sum for the education of Native children on the Pamunkey and Mattaponi reservations, starting with the 1917-1918 school year for \$1012.43.

In June 1950, the two tribes voted to consolidate into one school forming the Mattaponi-Pamunkey Reservation School in order to offer a broader and better program for grades 1 through 8. During the summer of 1950, the school building on the Mattaponi reservation, which was to house the consolidated school, was completely renovated with many new facilities added through additional State funds and donations from the Society of Friends and the Richmond Dietetics Association.

The majority of Virginia Indian children did not have access to high school courses locally as the Mattaponi-Pamunkey Reservation School only supporting a high school for a handful of years in the late 1950s-1960s. Beginning in 1946, the State provided tuition and transportation funding for high school students to complete their courses at Bacone Junior College (Oklahoma), Cherokee Reservation School (North Carolina), Oak Hill Academy (Grayson County, Virginia), as well as various places in Michigan. This program, while marketed as an opportunity, acted as a continuation of the Indian Boarding School era by removing these children from their homes and communities to simply receive an education. After the fight for integration in *Brown v. Board of Education* and solidified in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Virginia provided integrated public education for grades one through twelve resulting in the closing of the Mattaponi-Pamunkey Reservation School at the completion of the 1966 school year.

In addition to the Mattaponi and the Pamunkey, the tribes most prominently represented in these records, other tribes of Virginia Indians and their schools also appear in the records including: the Rappahannock; the Chickahominy and Eastern Chickahominy of Samaria School, located in Charles City County (served Indian pupils from Charles City and New Kent Counties); the Upper Mattaponi of the Sharon Indian School located in King William County (served Indians residing in that county); the Sappony of the High Plain Indian School located in Person County, NC (served Indians residing in that county and Halifax County, VA.).

Scope and Content

This collection documents the educational activities of the Virginian Indian children and the administration of the Mattaponi-Pamunkey School by the Virginia Department of Education. It includes correspondence, memos, pamphlets, photographs, applications, architectural drawings, reports, grade books, transcripts, and other related documents.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two (2) series:

- Series I: Administrative Records, 1944-1968;
- Series II: Educational Records, 1936-1966

Contents List

Series I: Administrative Records, 1944-1968.

Boxes 1-2, 5

Extent

Extent: 3 boxes.

Scope and Content

This series documents the administration of the school(s), their operations, and the boarding of students at schools out of state. Records include correspondence, annual administrative reports, meeting minutes, building agreements, commencement programs, equipment lists and orders, policies, contracts, newspaper articles, publications, photographs, menus, food items donated, requisition forms, and other records.

Arrangement

Alphabetically

Subseries I: Administrative Files, 1944-1968.

Extent

28 folders, 1 oversized folder

Advisory Committee Meeting, 1965 .

Box 1

Folder 1

Annual Reports, 1955-1966 .

Box 1

Folder 2

Blank Forms and Diplomas .

Box 1

Folder 3

Budget and Financial Reports, 1947-1968 .

Box 1

Folder 4

Building Agreements, 1958-1959 .

Box 1

Folder 5

Building Renovations, 1953, 1956, 1964 .

Box 1

Folder 6,

Box 5

Oversized Folder 1 (folder)

Calendar, 1953-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 7

Crafts Programs, 1952-1956 .

Box 1
Folder 8

Commencement Programs, 1959-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 9

Dept. of Education Committee Meeting, 1953 .

Box 1
Folder 10

Dept. of Interior Correspondence, 1964 .

Box 1
Folder 11

Enrollment, 1964-1967 .

Box 1
Folder 12

Equipment and Supplies, 1952-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 13

Exhibit Day, 1954 May 21 .

Box 1
Folder 14

General Correspondence, 1945-1964 .

Box 1
Folder 15

Historical Notes, 1955-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 16

Memos .

Box 1
Folder 17

Newspaper Articles and Publications, 1951-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 18

Regulations, 1959-1966 .

Box 1
Folder 19

School Census, 1950-1955 .

Box 1

Folder 20

School Closing Procedures, 1960-1962 .

Box 1

Folder 21

School Directory, 1964-1966 .

Box 1

Folder 22

Superintendent's Memos, 1960-1964 .

Box 1

Folder 23

Survey, 1955-1956, 1963 .

Box 1

Folder 24

Teaching Applications and Contracts, 1946-1966 .

Box 1

Folder 25-26

Teaching Permits, 1944-1956 .

Box 1

Folder 27

Transportation Records, 1960-1965 .

Box 1

Folder 28

Subseries II: Boarding School Records, 1944-1956.

Bacone College Correspondence, 1947-1955 .

Box 1

Folder 29

Bacone College Publications, 1944-1952 .

Box 1

Folder 30-31

"Bacone Indian" Articles, 1947-1950 .

Box 1

Folder 32

Cherokee School Correspondence, 1952-1956 .

Box 1

Folder 33

Chilocco Indian Agricultural School Handbook, 1948 .

Box 1

Folder 34

Haskell Institute, 1953-1954 .

Box 1

Folder 35

High Plains School, 1951 .

Box 1

Folder 36

Oak Hill Academy, 1954-1956 .

Box 1

Folder 47

Requests for High School State Aid, 1946-1955 .

Box 1

Folder 37

Samaria School, 1949-1955 .

Box 1

Folder 38

Subseries III: School Lunch Program, 1949-1966.

Program Agreements and Forms, 1956, 1962 .

Box 2

Folder 1

Program and Operation Documentation, 1962-1966 .

Box 2

Folder 2

Milk Program, 1954-1959 .

Box 2

Folder 3

Monthly Reports, 1949-1966 .

Box 2

Folder 4-11

Series II: Educational Records, 1936-1966.

Boxes 3-4 (box)

Extent

Extent: 2 boxes.

Scope and Content

This series documents the educational programming of the school(s), as well as the academic careers of the students. Included are attendance records and reports, grade books, reports on students at the boarding schools, curriculum files, book lists, high school transcripts, test books and answers, student registration, correspondence, and photographs. Academic records of living students (including but not limited to daily attendance and grades, monthly teacher reports, and yearly reports) are restricted for 75 years.

Arrangement

Alphabetical

Subseries I: Educational Files, 1948-1966.

Extent

4 folders

Curriculum Files, 1957-1966 .

Box 3

Folder 1

Educational Planning, 1948-1950 .

Box 3

Folder 2

Library Book Lists, 1960-1966 .

Box 3

Folder 3

Standardized Tests .

Box 3

Folder 4

Textbook Lists, 1958-1966 .

Box 3

Folder 5

Subseries II: Reports and Registers, 1936-1966.

Extent

20 folders

Mattaponi-Pamunkey School(s), 1936-1966 .

Daily Attendance and Grades (Mattaponi), 1936-1950 .

Box 3

Folder 6-7

Daily Attendance and Grades (Pamunkey), 1944-1950 .

Box 3

Folder 8

Daily Attendance and Grades (Mattaponi-Pamunkey), 1940-1965 .

Box 3

Folder 9-16

Mattaponi-Pamunkey High School.

Box 3

Folder 17

Monthly Teacher's Reports (Mattaponi), 1944-1950 .

Box 3

Folder 18

Monthly Teacher's Reports (Pamunkey), 1944-1949

Monthly Teacher's Reports (Pamunkey), 1944-1949 .

Box 3

Folder 19

Monthly Teacher's Reports (Mattaponi-Pamunkey), 1950-1966 .

Box 3

Folder 20-22

Yearly Reports, 1944-1963 .

Box 3

Folder 23

Boarding Schools, 1947-1956 .

Bacone College Reports, 1947-1954 .

Box 3

Folder 24

Cherokee High School Reports, 1951-1956 .

Box 3

Folder 25

Oak Hill Academy, 1955-1956 .

Box 3

Folder 26

Subseries III: Student Records.

Extent

37 folders

Scope and Content

These student records begin partway through the collection's timeframe, and do not list every student who attended the school(s). These student records may include correspondence, cumulative records, personal data record forms, report cards, reports, and test scores. Students may also be listed in the daily, monthly, or yearly reports as well as reports from the boarding schools which may list name, age, and grades. The records of deceased students are available for research, while the records of living students are closed until the student is deceased or after 2041. If you are a former student and would like to access your record(s), please contact Reference Services.

Allmond, Susan F. (closed).

Box 4

Folder 1

Anderson, Ronald (closed).

Box 4

Folder 2

Bradby, Joyce (closed).

Box 4

Folder 3

Custalow, Bradley Leon (closed).

Box 4

Folder 4

Custalow, Carl (closed).

Box 4

Folder 5

Custalow, Charles Bernard (closed).

Box 4

Folder 6

Custalow, Christine (closed).

Box 4

Folder 7

Custalow, Clayton (closed).

Box 4

Folder 8

Custalow, Curtis King.

Box 4

Folder 9

Custalow, Curtis Lee.

Box 4

Folder 10

Custalow, Delores.

Box 4

Folder 11

Custalow, Donald.

Box 4

Folder 12

Custalow, Howard (closed).

Box 4

Custalow, Joyce G.

Box 4

Folder 14

Custalow, Malcolm (closed).

Box 4

Folder 15

Custalow, Marie.

Box 4

Folder 16

Custalow, Marvin Ivy.

Box 4

Folder 17

Custalow, Philip.

Box 4

Folder 18

Custalow, Robert L. (closed)

Box 4

Folder 19

Custalow, Ryland.

Box 4

Folder 20

Custalow, Shirley.

Box 4

Folder 21

Custalow, Thomas.

Box 4

Folder 22

Custalow, Veronica Faye (closed).

Box 4

Folder 23

Goldstein, Joseph Ronald.

Box 4

Folder 24

Gundaker, Harrison Phillip.

Box 4

Folder 25

Gundaker, John "Jack".

Box 4

Folder 26

Gundaker, Mary Ruth.

Box 4

Folder 27

Langston, Ernest A.

Box 4

Folder 28

Miles, Lois (closed).

Box 4

Folder 29

Pack, James Powhatan.

Box 4

Folder 30

Page, Dorothy (closed).

Box 4

Folder 31

Page, Francis (closed).

Box 4

Folder 32

Peterson, Annie Ruth (closed).

Box 4

Folder 33

Peterson, Chevis.

Box 4

Folder 34

Peterson, Dorothy (closed).

Box 4

Folder 35

Peterson, Geraldine.

Box 4

Folder 36

Peterson, Shirley (closed).

Box 4

Folder 37