Stewart Indian School

Stewart Braves

Oral History & ID Booklet

A Guide to Sharing

Your History

Stories are as unique as the people who share them.
Please consider sharing your story to help others learn about history and its lessons.
This workbook is intended to guide individuals and families who wish to preserve and share their stories by creating a brief biographical ID booklet. Every person’s story is significant and unique. Your perspective is valuable and can help broaden other’s understanding of history. This is also a way to share your life experience with your family and friends.

“The Stewart Indian School changed the course of generations of American Indians. For more than 90 years American Indian children were removed from their homelands, family and culture with profound impacts on their lives. The Stewart Indian School Living Legacy preserves their stories and cultural legacy Never to be Forgotten.”

First Name_________________________ Middle Name_________________________ Last Name_________________________

Maiden Name or Nickname ______________ Male ______ Female_________

Date of Birth (month/day/year)_______________ Place of Birth_________________________________________

Spouse(s)_____________________________________________________________________________________

Current Mailing Address_________________________________________________________________________

Street Address (if different than your mailing address)_________________________________________________________________________________________

City__________________________ State__________ Zip Code_________________________

Telephone(_______)_______________ Email_________________________________________________________________________________________

If you were a student, employed or otherwise involved with the school, please answer the following:

Years Attended/Years Employed___________________________________________________________________________

Did you graduate from the Stewart Indian School? Yes____ No____

Military Service (branch/unit/rank)_________________________________________________________________________

When and Where?________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever been interviewed about your recollections? Yes____ No____

Is so, when and with whom?_______________________________________________________________________________

Do you have photographs or artifacts from the Stewart Indian School? Yes____ No____ Maybe____

If so, please see the “Photos, Archives, and Artifacts” page in this workbook.

Occasionally we have requests from students, educators, researchers, or reporters who would like to speak to a former student or staff member. If you are willing to speak about your experiences, do we have your permission to share your contact information? Yes____ No____

Would you like to be on the Stewart Indian School contact list? Yes____ No____

Before any of your information may be used, you must sign the permission form on the next page.
Permission Form

We must have your written permission before we can preserve or share the information you provide in this booklet. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION

PERMISSION FORM

I do hereby give the Nevada Indian Commission the non-exclusive right to use in perpetuity the information provided in this oral history workbook as well as any photographs and documents I am submitting with it. I authorize the Nevada Indian Commission to use this information in such a manner as may best serve their shared educational and historical objectives to preserve and share stories of the nearly 30,000 students who attended the Stewart Indian School over its 90 year history.

Potential uses of the information include, but are not limited to, incorporation in the following: a biographical ID booklet, an archive to be made available over the internet, educational curriculum, film or video documentaries, online computer websites, publications, disc-based products and museum exhibits. In addition, the interview may be made available to other entities with similar educational or historical purposes.

Would you prefer that any public material produced only refer to you by your first name and list initial only such as “Robert S.” or Thelma M.” Yes ____ No ____

Print Name________________________________________________________

Signed________________________________________________________ Date___________

Address________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________________________ State__________ Zip Code________________________

Telephone(_ ) __________________ Email:____________________________________________________

If you are completing this booklet on behalf of someone else, please check here_______

His/Her name________________________________________ Relationship to you____________________________

Please provide your contact information above.
Creating Your ID Booklet: Student Family Background

Father’s Name __________________________  Date/Place of Birth __________________________

Mother’s Name __________________________ Date/Place of Birth __________________________

Where and when were they married? ________________________________________________

What values did your parents instill in you?

How many brothers and/or sisters do (or did) you have?

What Tribe are you from? What language was primarily spoken in your home?

What schools did you attend before or after the Stewart Indian School?

Did your parents, or other family members attend Stewart?

Feel free to attach additional sheets if you need more space.
What circumstances brought you to Stewart?

What was your first impression of Stewart when you arrived?

Which dorm(s) did you live in?

What kind of school activities and/or sports did you participate in?

Is there a particular person, event or memory of Stewart that stands out in your mind?

What was your impression of the Stewart dining hall (food, waiting in line, workers)?

Do you remember the names of any school songs (ex. Hooray for Good Ole Stewart)?

What contact did you have with school staff and/or administration?
Was there a teacher who had a particularly strong influence on your life?

What were your experiences with the Stewart Post Office? Did you have problems sending mail? Was it censored? Did you receive letters or packages from home or from relatives?

Did you attend church at Stewart? If so, which church?

Did you attend any activities in the auditorium (Please describe the activities)?

Did you enjoy attending the Stewart Indian School?

Did you graduate from the Stewart Indian School? If not, where did you graduate from?

What vocation did you learn at Stewart?
What brought you to Stewart?

What was your first impression of Stewart when you arrived?

Did you live on campus? If so, where?

How long did you work at Stewart? What was your job?

What contact did you have with students?

Is there a particular person, event, building or memory of Stewart that stands out in your mind?

What contact did you have with people in the surrounding community?

What was your and/or your parents’ job(s) in or associated with Stewart? How much did they earn? If you were a student, where did you attend school? What grade(s) were you in?
What were your career goals and future hopes after graduation?

Where did you go after Stewart? And, what was it like?

Did you go on a relocation? (The Indian Relocation Act of 1956 was a U.S. law intended to encourage American Indians to assimilate into the general population). If so, where? And, what was it like?

Did you and/or your family talk about your experiences at Stewart? Did you share them with your children?

What was your life like after Stewart?
Where did you go after Stewart?

How did your experience at Stewart influence your life?

Did you and/or your family talk about your experiences at Stewart? Did you share them with your children?

What was your life like after Stewart?
Have you visited the Stewart Indian School since you left? If so, when?

What advice or insights would you like to share with young people today about the Stewart Indian School?

Would you be interested in helping the Nevada Indian Commission with the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy initiative (giving tours of the campus, talking with students and visitors, being interviewed by media about your experiences at Stewart)?

Is there anything else you would like to say or add?

Looking back, how did your experience at Stewart shape the rest of your life?
What is in your attic, basement or garage?

In addition to preserving your stories, the Nevada Indian Commission, as well as many other institutions and organizations, preserves archival and museum collections. While we are not able to collect, preserve, and store all items related to Indian Boarding schools, we are interested in unique and personal items that will help illuminate the history of the Stewart Indian School.

The Nevada Indian Commission has a museum collection from which select artifacts will be displayed in the future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center on a rotating basis and/or used for research purposes.

Please let us know if you have Stewart Indian School related materials such as those listed above which you might consider loaning or donating to the Nevada Indian Commission.

If we are unable to accept your donation, we may be able to refer you to another group or institution that can. Please contact the Nevada Indian Commission for more information on the scope of our collections and the process for loaning or donating items.

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Please make a photocopy of this booklet before you send it to us.
If you are unable to, please let us know and we will send you one.

If it is convenient, you may use a computer to create your text and e-mail it to the Nevada Indian Commission at cgibbons@nic.nv.gov. We will contact you to confirm that we received your workbook by e-mail.

If possible, please mail or e-mail us an image of you while at the Stewart Indian School as well as a recent photo. Digital images should be at least 4” wide at a resolution of 300 dpi in .tif or .jpg format. Mailed images will be scanned and returned to you unless you specify otherwise. Please provide captions for your photos.

Please mail your completed workbook and photos to:

Nevada Indian Commission
5366 Snyder Avenue
Carson City, NV  89701
Tel. (775) 687-8333
Fax (775) 687-8330
www.nic.nv.gov
www.StewartIndianSchool.com

Future native and non-native generations will benefit from this initiative. The history and the lessons that are to be shared at the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy are compelling, largely unknown and seldom taught. Yet it is a history that is essential to understanding American Indians and their relationship with government and education. It is an era of our shared American history.