

Stewart Indian School



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.

Biographical Summary

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 _____

Please answer the following if you were a student, employed, or otherwise involved with the school:

Years Attended and/or 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____

If 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 that talks about loaning or donating items to the Museum. Select artifacts from our collection will be displayed in the future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum on a rotating basis and/or used for research purposes.

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.

PERMISSION FORM

I do hereby give the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum 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 Museum to use this information in such a manner as may best serve their shared educational and historical objectives, and to preserve and share stories of the students who attended the Stewart Indian School over its 90 year history.

Potential uses of the information include, but are not limited to, incorporation of 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, your information 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?

Feel free to
attach
additional
sheets if you
need more
space.

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?



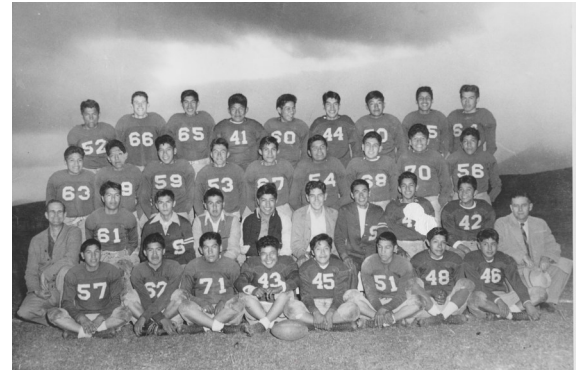
Student Life at the Stewart Indian School (for students)

What circumstances brought you to Stewart?

Feel free to attach additional sheets if you need more space.

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?

Student Life at the Stewart Indian School (for students)

Was there a teacher or staff member who had a particularly strong influence on your life?

Feel free to
attach
additional
sheets if you
need more
space.

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?



Staff Life at the Stewart Indian School (staff and others)

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) with Stewart? How much did they earn? If you were a student, where did you attend school? What grade(s) were you in?

Feel free to
attach
additional
sheets if you
need more
space.



Student Life After Stewart (for students)

What were your career goals and future hopes after graduation?

Feel free to
attach
additional
sheets if you
need more
space.

Where did you go after Stewart and what was it like?

Did you go into 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?



Staff Life After Stewart (staff and others)

Where did you go after Stewart?

Feel free to
attach
additional
sheets if you
need more
space.

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?

Feel free to attach additional sheets if you need more space.

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

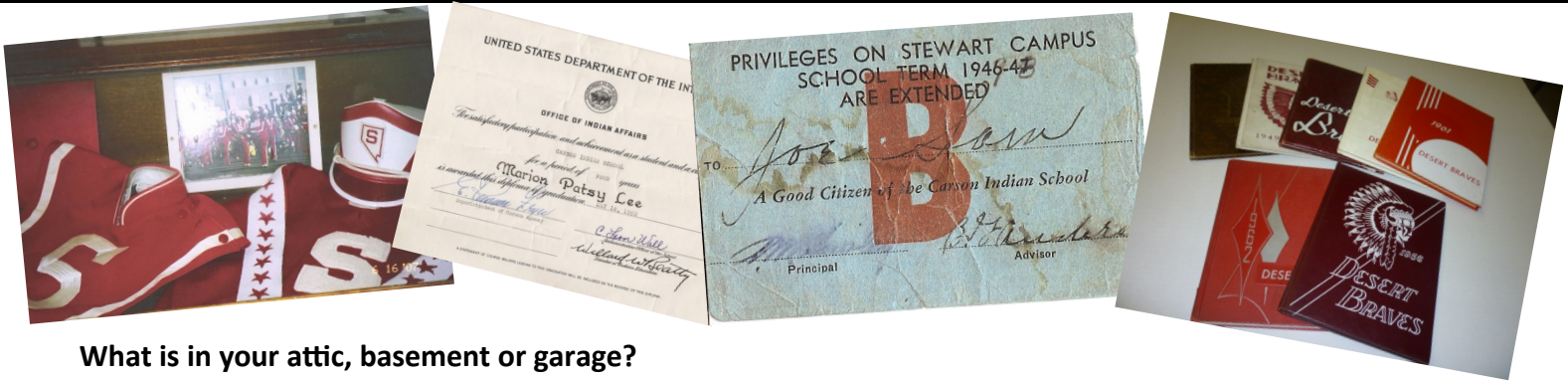
Would you be interested in helping the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum (giving tours of the campus, talking with students and visitors, being interviewed by media about your experiences at Stewart)?

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?



Photos, Archives and Artifacts



What is in your attic, basement or garage?

In addition to preserving your stories the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, 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.

Select artifacts from our collection will be displayed in the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum 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 Museum. We can digitize your photos and documents and return the originals to you.

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 Museum, at 775-687-7608, for more information on the scope of our collections and the process for loaning or donating items. These are the items we would like to find for our Museum:

Paper Documents	Letters, journals, scrapbooks, diplomas, yearbooks, menus, school newsletters, event programs, tickets,
Photographs	Photographic prints, negatives, albums, snapshots, etc.
Everyday Items	Schoolwork, furniture made or used at Stewart, school books, clothing, musical instruments etc.
Motion Pictures	Newsreels, government films, sporting events, Stewart related amateur and home movies, etc.
Arts and Crafts	Paintings, drawings, sketchbooks, items made at Stewart , Wa-Pai-Shone arts & crafts (cradleboards, beadwork) etc.
Sports and Hobbies	Sporting goods, uniform items, club memorabilia, trophies, etc.

Taking Care of Your Collections

Helpful guidelines for collection care while storing, donating, or displaying your materials:

- Keep temperature and humidity constant. Keep collections at about 70 degrees Fahrenheit and about 50% humidity whenever possible to reduce damage.
- Be wary of too much light. Ultra violet and infrared light can damage certain materials, keep items in unlit storage or in protective casing whenever possible.
- Use proper storage and tools. Reduce the break down of material by using the right tools and storage. Do not bend photos or fold documents, use photo pens to mark items without excessive damage.
- Double check the materials used for storage. Certain oils, acids, and chemicals used in many everyday items can damage collections in the long run, make sure materials do not react with each other.
- Keep storage and display areas clean. Follow expert advise on cleaning different materials. Regular cleaning and upkeep can deter pests and accidental damage when interacting with these areas or items.
- Allow proper space for collections. Do not overcrowd storage boxes or stack items that might have potential to crush or damage important material.
- Avoid close proximity to water or heat sources. Having objects next to a fireplace or shower might damage material over time. Keeping an item off of the ground could also help protect against flood damage.
- Avoid handling items too often. Repeated use will wear down any material, consider using cotton gloves to reduce acids and oils that naturally build up on hands. Be wary of any poisons used in preservation.
- Talk about the risk involved with anyone who has access to your collections. Everyone around sensitive material should treat it with respect. Discourage eating, drinking, and smoking around protected items.

Additional Resources

- Alexander, E.P. Alexander M. and Decker J. *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums*. "Chapter 9, To Conserve". Rowman and Littlefield, 3rd ed. 2017.
- American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. www.conservation-us.org
- Odegaard, N. Sadongei, A. et al. *Old Poisons, New Problems: A Museum Resource for Managing Contaminated Cultural Materials*. AltaMira Press. 2005
- Northeast Document Conservation Center. www.nedcc.org
- Stewart Indian School, Cultural Center and Museum. www.stewartindianschool.com

Next Steps

**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 Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum 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:

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum
1 Jacobsen Way
Carson City, NV 89701
Tel. (775) 687-7608
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 Cultural Center & Museum are compelling, largely unknown, and seldom taught. It is a history that is essential to understanding American Indians and their relationship with the government and education. It is an era of our shared American history.

