

My great grandfather attended Chilocco Boarding school along with his brother from 1904-1912 (that's what the National Archives records show). Unfortunately the government succeeded in what they set out to do by sending my great grandfather to this school. He was so traumatized by everything as a child and attending this school that he truly lost touch with his Indian Tribal Heritage. Growing up he spoke of trouble things that happened at the school to the point that he ran away but was sent back. His father had left him, his mother and brother at a young age. His mother remarried shortly before being sent to Chilocco. While at Chilocco his mother past away in 1909. A few years later he was finally released from Chilocco but the damage was done. All he had was his brother. He remembered he was Native American but he could not recall his tribal affiliation. He died never knowing. His children, most have also past away, also have never known their tribal affiliation. My grandfather had tried finding out what tribe we belong too but him to ended up passing away without knowing. Unfortunately, my mother tried picking up where her father left off but her too ended up leaving this world before knowing our Native heritage. Since 2011 I have tried finding information that would list what tribe we have running through out blood. The records at the National Archives from Chilocco Indian Boarding School only list him as Pueblo and nothing else. The records show he was living in El Paso at the time he first attended Chilocco. My great grandfather remembered be loaded on a train in El Paso, Texas along with many other Indian children and sent to this school. The records indicate that his biological father was full blood, his mother 1/2 blood, and my great grandfather was listed as 3/4 blood. My great grandfather's enrollment record dated July 19, 1909 states he was born in Ysleta, El Paso, Texas in 1893 but all other records indicate that he was born in Chihuahua, Mexico including U.S. Census records and U.S. Military Draft records. Someone did file a delayed birth certificate in 1953 stating he was born in Ysleta, El Paso, Texas. If this is true this would mean that our Indian Tribe Affiliation would most likely be Ysleta Del Sur Pueblos, but this tribe indicates they have never had a tribal member registered with our surname. I've also contacted the Isleta Tribe in New Mexico and again told the same thing. Unfortunately I don't think my family will ever know where we come from especially since my great grandfather died without remembering anything about his father or mother, yet alone anything about his Native heritage. It's so heartbreaking that our government would take a child from his family and remove everything that represents him and his heritage and leave them with such an empty feeling of never knowing where they belong. Even worse it continues today through each generation that comes from them. I don't know if you have any information that can help me find the information my family has been looking for for years or if I should, just like those before me, just forget about ever finding our tribal affiliation because our government didn't leave any documentation stating anything other than "Pueblo".