

To Whom it May Concern:

I am Eleanor (Jones) Hadden the daughter of Mary (Baines) Jones. My mother had done research since 1967 trying to find the remains of her maternal aunt, Mary Kinninook. My mother passed away in July 2020, so I am now carrying on her legacy.

I am the daughter, granddaughter, and great-niece of ancestors that attended boarding schools. The boarding schools were: Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, PA in 1903-1908; Chemawa, in Salem, OR in 1912-16; and Sheldon Jackson Industrial Training School, in Sitka, AK in 1943-49.

My great-aunt, Mary Kinninook is my maternal grandmother's, Elizabeth (Kinninook) Baines's older sister. Mary died at Carlisle Indian School in 1908 and is buried in the cemetery under a headstone that reads "Unknown." We have been working with the Army to have her remains disinterred but due to her being an 'unknown' the process is more complicated. The initial plan was to report the disinterment process only to Tribes that may have a child buried with a headstone labeled "Unknown." Now the federal government requires letters be sent to ALL federally recognized Tribes and wait for their responses. This may take over a year. The possibility of having Mary's remains returned has now been pushed back to 2024 instead of 2021.

My grandmother Elizabeth and her three siblings lost their mother in 1912, so their father sent them to the Chemawa Indian School. Elizabeth spent her childhood (1912 – 1916) first without a mother and then raised in a boarding school so her mothering skills were very militaristic and not very loving. However, she was a firm believer in western education as she believed this was one way to succeed and adapt to the western culture. While we have many college degrees in our extended family, there is also intergenerational trauma due to the impact of attendance at western boarding schools.

My great-uncle, Little Willie (maternal grandmother's youngest brother), was also sent to the Chemawa Indian School in 1912, however, was not admitted because upon arrival he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He was sent to Lapwai, Idaho, located in Nez Perce Indian/Tribal country. He is buried there in an unmarked grave. Since he was not formally admitted to the boarding school, he is not listed among boarding school deaths even though he left home to attend a boarding school.

My parents, Mary and Willard Jones, met at Sheldon Jackson Training School. My mother would talk about a typical school day. The girls would have a half a day of school and half a day of working in the kitchen or in the garden, cleaning the dorms, etc. I don't know if it was one time or multiple times, but my mother was tagged for special duty because she was deemed more responsible. She was given the task of cleaning the superintendent's house, which included, as if it were a privilege, to wash their underwear by hand. Mom knew from her mother-in-law what loving children meant and she wanted to make sure my brother and I knew what it meant to be loved by her. She would hug and say, "I love you" throughout her life, as she had never heard this or "I'm proud of you" from her mother. My parents broke that cycle and conveyed throughout life these two endearments to my brother and me throughout our lives.

I had heard at one time, that out of every five children that were sent from Alaska to boarding schools, only one returned. Of my grandmother's siblings, two lived their entire lives in California never to return to Alaska; one died at Carlisle boarding school; one died in foreign place (Lapwai, ID); and my grandmother was the only one to return to Alaska to raise her family.

Eleanor "Aankeenaa" (Jones) Hadden