INQUIRIES INTO STUDENT DEATHS

GROUARD INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1936

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Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6366)

File 761-5, part 1	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1910 - 1933.
File 761-5, part 2	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1933 - 1936.
File 761-5, part 3	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1936 - 1939.
File 761-5, part 4	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1939 - 1949.
File 761-11, part 1	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) Vocational Training. 1939 - 1948.
File761-14, part 1	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) Livestock - Supplies. 1943 - 1944.
File 761-23, part 1	Lesser Slave Lake Agency - Grouard R.C. Residential School (St. Bernard's) - Deaths. 1936.

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6366, file 761-23, part 1)

No. ~~181-1-23~~ 761-23

Department of Indian Affairs

19.....

GROUARD RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

DEATH OF PUPILS

Re George BIG BEAR, Grouard, Alberta.
Treaty(
Sudden Death.

3. Statement of Father PROULX:

"Grouard,Alberta.
Sept.15/36.

Father Marcel PROULX states;

About 7.30.am.On Sept.15/36.I was called into the boys room by Sister Marcella she pointed out one of the boys in bed & I felt his pulse there was none, Artificial respiration was tried without result.I learned that the boys name was George Big Bear a treaty from Whitefish Lake.

Sgd. Father Marcel PROULX

4. The room where the boys sleep is a large place and has 75 beds,at present there are 65 boys sleeping in the room,I was given to understand that there is always one of the Sisters present when the children are in the room,and during the night one of the Sisters sleeps in an adjoining room on the same floor,so that she is always available if necessary,on the night in question Sister Gerard was on duty,and she advised me that there was no disturbance during the night and the boy had not complained,neither had the boy complained since his return from Whitefish Lake about not feeling well,the Sister did notive that the boy had not been looking very well since his return to school on September 1/36,but as he appeared to be getting along alright no attention was paid to this,the mother of the child resides at Whitefish Lake and a messenger was sent to notify her of the death of her child,also Mr N.P.L'HEUREUX of DRIFTPILE who is the Indian Agent was informed of the boys death.Statement was also obtained from Coroner McINTYRE as follows;

"High Prairie,Alberta.
Sept.16/36.

Statement of E.L.McINTYRE Coroner of HIGH PRAIRIE,On Sept.15/36. Corpl Faulkner and myself were notified that a boy(George BIG BEAR) 10 years of age had died in bed in the GROUARD CATHOLIC MISSION boys dormitory.We proceeded by auto livery and motor boat to the R.C.Mission at Grouard,after taking statements and examining the body,I decided that the boy had died from natural causes.The body was that of a male child of about 10 years of age,fairly well developed and slightly debilitated. He had a well marked scabies condition on the body,and the pupils widely dilated,but there were no marks of violence on the body,Apparently the boy had had influenza of both respiratory and gastric intestinal type during the latter part of the holidays and he had returned to school in a debilitated condition.

(b) He also had congenital V.D.S.death had apparently been caused by heart failure(V.D.H)from influenza,the condition had been aggravated by congenital V.D.S.,I signed the death certificate accordingly,I decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

Sgd.E.L.McINTYRE.M.D."

5. In view of the above statements and my investigation I am concluding this case,the boy is being buried at GROUARD,death being registered before W.B.MILLEY,Esqr.,of that point by the Rev.Father PALMER of Catholic Mission.

Attached copy of this report for Mr L'HEUREUX of DRIFTPILE who is Indian Agent for this district.

Concluded.
Expense insurred.

J.W. Faulkner Corpl.
(J.W.Faulkner)Reg'l.No.11320.
i/c.High Prairie Det'ment.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6366, file 761-23, part 1)

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Division Fyle No. 36K 1190/5-88 F. 237

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Division "K"

Province Alberta.

Sub-Division Peace River

Detachment High Prairie

Date Sept. 16/36

Fyle References

Re George BIG BEAR, Grouard, Alberta. (Treaty)

Sudden Death.

Headquarters

Sub-Division

Detachment

C. C. R.

First

1. Sept.15/36.I received a phone call from E.L.McINTYRE Coroner at HIGH PRAIRIE,that the above named a boy age 10 years had been found dead in his bed at the Catholic Mission School at GROUARD,he had apparently been alright the night before,and when the Sister in charge of the room had gone around to waken the boys at 7.30.am she found him dead in bed.

2. Accompanied by Coroner McINTYRE via auto livery we left HIGH PRAIRIE and patrolled to the GROUARD boat landing,where we met the ferry boat and continued our journey to GROUARD,upon arrival we were shown the body of the boy,examination of the body showed there were no marks of violence, statements were taken from the witnesses as follows:

"Grouard,Alberta.
Sept.15/36.

Gordan BIGBEAR states I am 8 years of age,and a Treaty Indian my mother resides at WHITEFISH LAKE where she is still living,my brother George(Deceased) spent our vacation at WHITEFISH and returned to school on the 1st of Sept.1936.George was about 10 years of age.

(b) About July 1/36.My brother & I left school & went to WHITEFISH LAKE,my brother was in good health at that time,after he had been home forabout two weeks he took sick,he had headackes and vomiting spells,he was sick for a long time at home,he would get up to eat his meals and go right back to bed again. "

" Grouard,Alberta.
Sept.15/36.

Sister Mary AUXILIATRICE states:

I am in charge of the boys room at the Catholic Mission at Grouard,George & Gordan Big bear arrived fr from Whitefish Lake about Sept.1/36.for school.

(b) George ate well,but he was pale & thin when he came back to school,I was not on duty this morning

Sister Mary Auxiliatrise. "

"Grouard,Alberta.
Sept.15/36.

Sister Paul GERARD states;

The boy(George BIGBEAR)was feeling fine when he left school for vacation,coming back in September,he was pale and then this morning waking the boys up I found the boy dead,I called him by name ,but no answer so I felt his pulse,and heart beat and could not find any sign of life.The boy appeared to be better the night before even better than usual,he was not sick during the night. Sgd.Sr.Paul GERARD.

" (P.T.O.)

Fyle numbers must be quoted.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6366, file 761-23, part 1)

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131-1-23

L.H. 4A.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:—
COMMISSIONER,
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE,
OTTAWA

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH

97045

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

FILE NO. 36 B 1190-H-2.

OTTAWA, Sept. 28, 1936.

CANADA

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SEP 29 1936
RECORDS

Sir,-

Re: Death of George BIG BEAR
Grouard, Alta.

1. Enclosed is copy of a report from High Prairie, Alta., dated the 16th instant in connection with the death of George Big Bear, an Indian residing at Grouard, Alta.

Yours truly,

A.H.L. Mellor, Supt.,
Asst. D. C. I.

The Deputy Superintendent-General,
Department of Indian Affairs,
O t t a w a.

Encl.
A/DG.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6366, file 761-23, part 1)

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FILE NO. 761-23 DORMANT

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

CROSS REFERENCE

131-1-23

GROUARD - ST. BERNARD -
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
DEATHS - PUPILS AT RESIDENT SCHOOLS

DORMANT

FILE NO. 761-23

SCHOOL SERIES

Central Registry	P.A. or B.F.	Date	Initials	Referred to	For Remarks	Initials	Date
		(If purpose for which referred cannot be expressed on one line, add minute to file, and enter here "With Minute")					

R. 3755

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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