

Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6210).

File 468-11, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - Vocational Training - Supplies - Ac- counts - General Administration. 1940 - 1946.
File 468-11, part 2	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - Vocational Training - Supplies - Ac- counts. 1947 - 1949.
File 468-13, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Medical Matters - Supplies - Ac- counts - General Administration. 1933 - 1943.
File 468-14, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Livestock. 1924 - 1945.
File 468-22, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - High School Entrance Centre. 1936 - 1945.
File 468-23, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Deaths of Pupils. 1939 - 1944.
File 468-24, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Audit Reports. 1935 - 1946.
File 468-29, part 1	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Bus Driver - Salary & Expenses. 1946 - 1948.
File 468-29, part 2	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Bus Driver - Salary & Expenses. 1946 - 1948.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6210, file 468-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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CANADA



## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of  
.....  
..... Courtland Claus ..... Pupil No. 791 .....

of the Mount Elgin ..... Indian Residential School at Muncey ..... Ont. ....

who died at Childrens Hospital, London, Ont (place) on June 12th, 1939. 19 .....

### INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.

A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? *Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> 1939.*
2. At what time of day? *1:00 P.M.*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident?.....
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Heat applied to body.*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? *None.*
6. When was the doctor called? *at once*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? *By car on frame.*
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? .....
9. Add any other useful information here.

*Following an ear infection this boy was being kept in bed for a few days. He apparently climbed onto the sill of the window, overbalanced and fell a distance of approximately thirty feet to the ground. Statements are attached from all who could give any information.* *Olin B. Strapp,*  
Principal.

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED  
THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended Courtland Claus from June 8  
to June 11<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>15</sup> pm to 6 pm. The immediate cause of death was Intra  
cranial hemorrhage

The contributory cause of death was Fracture of skull  
due to trauma

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exer-  
cised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? yes (not 100%)

Did they follow out your professional instructions? yes

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express  
your carefully considered views as follows:

I do not approve of four year old ill  
boy being left alone in dormitory.

While regulations do not demand screens  
on windows, had screen removed for repair  
been replaced immediately fatality might  
have been avoided.

Called to case 1<sup>15</sup> pm June 11. Proceeded at once to School  
Patient unconscious hemorrhage from right ear and  
mouth. Spasm marked. I. R. Rydbeck, M.D.  
of both arms and right leg. med. Sup't  
Reg. Cheyne-Stokes respiration. Curator Agency  
adrenalin 8 M. in given per hypo.

During to signs of impending death stayed in  
constant attendance until 3 pm then removed  
to hospital abandon on Bradford from in  
Principal's car accompanied by Principal and Nurse  
Skull and cervical vertebrae crushed 5 pm.  
chief of Surgery and associate Professor in  
consultation. Child died 3.30 am June 12.  
Special nurse in attendance. Spinal Tap cont. 8 pm



C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of.....

*Courtland (Cody) Claus*

have been recorded? *No* If not, you are required to add here any further particulars

which strike you as essential. *When the screen was removed for repairs at the window from which this boy fell, precautions should have been taken to make the window fast until the screen was returned so that a pupil so young as Cody Claus could not raise it at will. The staff on account of the age of this boy made him a school pet and thus reacted to the extent he had in his own way to mischief and did not obey orders when given him by his superiors. Pupils as young as Cody Claus when confined to their rooms through illness should be congregated in one room and an older pupil or one of the staff be in constant attendance and not make periodical visits of a few times a day.*

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

*A special room should be set aside for confining such pupils, which would be best on the main floor so that close attendance might be given the pupils and also save climbing the long flights of stairs to be in attendance for meals & nursing attention. It is also felt that pupils should not be placed in a residential school at the age of 4 years such as Cody Claus, as they cannot accept discipline and also need extra attention and supervision from a limited staff. In my opinion no pupil should be placed in a school under the age of 6 yrs. Due to its structure and design of the building Mt. Elgin School has always offered some dangers to pupils due to low sills at the windows, left hand stairways, etc.*

*Chas. Moore*

Chairman—Indian Agent.



Mount Elgin Residential School.

June 12th.1939.

Statements taken from persons who witnessed the accident that caused the death of Courtland (Cody) Claus, pupil of the Mt. Elgin School on the 11th day of June, 1939.

Lloyd Nicholas, 17 years of age and a pupil of Mount Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing at the rear of the main school building in company with two girl pupils, when Ruth Antone told me to look and I turned and seen something white falling and then I heard a thud and we were about sixty feet away. Ruth Antone said that Cody had fallen and we ran around the boiler house to find Cody lying on the ground. Ruth put her hand under his back and lifted him up a little so that I got hold of him and I carried him into the school building where I placed him on a bed in the first floor dormitory. As we came into the building we met Mrs. Erratt and she called for the nurse and *the nurse* told me to put Cody on the bed.

Witness.

Signed. *Lloyd Nicholas*

*J. Roy*

Ruth Antone, 17 years of age and a pupil of the Mt. Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing talking to Lloyd Nicholas and Christine Henhawk at the rear of the school building and I looked up and seen Cody at the window of the 2nd floor dormitory and a little later I turned my head again and seen Cody falling. I ran around to where he lay and lifted him up a little so that Lloyd could get a hold of him to carry him into the school building. Cody did not move or cry out at any time after he fell. After entering the building I went to get hot water at the request of the Matron.

Witness.

Signed. *Ruth Antone*

*J. Roy*

Christine Henhawk, aged 18 years and a pupil of Mount Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing with Lloyd and Ruth at the rear of the main building when I heard Ruth say that Cody was falling and I turned and seen him and his body did make a complete turn in the air between the upper and lower dormitory windows on the way down. I ran around the boiler house to where Cody was lying on the ground and he did not cry out or move at any time. I ~~then~~ Ruth help Lloyd get Cody in his arms and carry him into the school building.

Witness.

Signed.

*J. Roy*

*Christine Henhawk*

Statements taken from persons who last ~~saw~~ Courtland (Cody) Claus on the 11th of June and previous to the accident that caused his death.

Lillian George, aged 15 years and a pupil of the Mount Elgin Residential School, states that I was on duty to take the meals to the pupils confined to the dormitories and I was up to the room where Cody was at about 12.20 when I did find him in his bed and which time I removed the dishes that he had used to eat his dinner from.

Witness.

*J. Roy*

Signed. *Lillian George*

Mella Seth, aged 17 years and a pupil of the Mount Elgin Residential School, states that I was on duty and it was necessary for me to visit the dormitory in which Cody was in bed and that at 12.30 I did see Cody and he at that time was in his bed. Previous to entering the room I did hear noises like some person running around the room, but Cody was in his bed when I entered the room and that is the last time I seen him before the accident that caused his death.

Witness.

*J. Roy*

Signed. *Mella Seth*



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of

*Aelou Deueca* Pupil No. *7* <sup>0338</sup>  
of the *Mount Elgin* Indian Residential School at *Manuagout*  
who died at *Victoria Hospital Soudon* (place) on *October 30, 1944*

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.



A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? Oct. 9. 1944
2. At what time of day? 10 A.M.
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness ~~or accident?~~ Reported by girls' Matron Mrs. C. W. Burnfield
4. What means were taken to afford relief? Oct 10 { Mustard, leeches, asphyne, achreine tabs, seen by Dr. Parry and Miss Patterson sent to Victoria Hospital under
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? Frost 317, G. & H. q.s.v.
6. When was the doctor called? Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1944
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. Department nurse
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Add any other useful information here.

Followup: scarlet fever 1941, persistent albuminuria requiring frequent and prolonged rest in bed and hospitalization in 1943 for 4 mths. for kidney circulation

S. A. Sofer

Principal.

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED  
THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended *Helen Seneca* from *Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> to*  
to *Oct 11<sup>th</sup>*. The immediate cause of death was.....

*Chronic Nephritis*  
The contributory cause of death was *Pneumonia*

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exer-  
cised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? *yes*

Did they follow out your professional instructions? *yes*

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express  
your carefully considered views as follows:

*W. V. Gardey* M.D.

1-2-37  
C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of.....

*W. Nelson Quince*

have been recorded? *yes* If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

*W. Nelson Quince*

Chairman—Indian Agent.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON, CANADA

November 3rd 1944

Dr. W. V. V. Pardy,  
MT. BRIDGES, Ont.

Dear Doctor Pardy:      Re: Miss Helen Seneca

Miss Helen Seneca, age 14, was admitted to Staff Medicine on October 12th.

On admission she was very dyspnoeic, had a low grade temperature and X-ray of the chest showed consolidation of the lower half of the left lung.

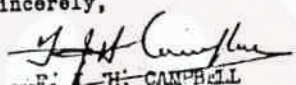
She was put on sulfa therapy and her temperature became normal; the dyspnoea continued; the NPN was 211 with albuminuria; the B.P. was 160 over 135; her W.C. 20,000. She was given saline and glucose intravenously and we were able to get the NPN down to 157. Another portable X-ray of the chest was taken and the lesion on the left side was smaller but infection showed in the right base.

The patient became edematous and clinically showed signs of massive pulmonary edema. Her condition grew steadily worse and she died on October 30th.

We appreciate Rev. Sopers' assistance in obtaining permission for an autopsy for us and the findings of Autopsy were as follows:

"Chronic pyelonephritis (bilateral); cardiac hypertrophy and dilatation; albuminous and fatty degeneration of myocardium; pulmonary oedema; lobular pneumonia; acute pleuritis (left); pleural effusion, pericardial effusion; ascites; subcutaneous oedema of legs and vulva; mural cardiac thrombi with puriform softening; chronic passive congestion of liver and spleen; albuminous and fatty degeneration of liver. Multiple chronic duodenal ulcers, acute oesophagitis. Double ureter (left)?"

Yours very sincerely,

  
F. H. CAMPBELL  
CHIEF, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

A/S

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6210, file 468-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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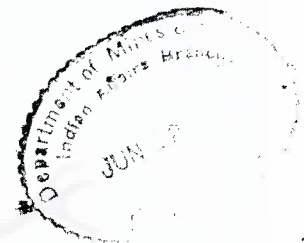
610

DIRECTOR INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPT MINES AND RESOURCES OTTAWA ONT  
 REGRET ACCIDENTAL DEATH CODY CLAU BOARD INQUIRY CALLED  
 LETTER FOLLOWS

STRAPP.

*looped 2/3*

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# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

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W. D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL.

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STANDARD TIME

CARADOC ONT JUNE 11-39

DR E L STONE,

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH, DEPT OF MINES & RESOURCES, OTTAWA ONT.  
 CODY CLAU AGE FOUR PUPIL FROM ONSNEKEN BELIEVED TO HAVE  
 DISLOCATED CERVICAL VERTEBRA IN ACCIDENTAL FALL FROM SECOND FLOOR WINDOW  
 AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SUNDAY NOON STOP UNCONSCIOUS IN LONDON HOSPITAL  
 WITH SPECIAL NURSES ASSIGNED STOP PROGNOSIS POOR PRINCIPAL STRAPP HAS  
 NOTIFIED MAJOR RANDALL AT BRANTFORD TO LOCATE FATHER.

T R MCLEOD.

911 PM.

*looped 2/3*



Mount Elgin Residential School.

June 12th. 1939.

Statements taken from persons who witnessed the accident that caused the death of Courtland (Cody) Claus, pupil of the Mt. Elgin School on the 11th day of June, 1939.

Lloyd Nicholas, 17 years of age and a pupil of Mount Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing at the rear of the main school building in company with two girl pupils, when Ruth Antone told me to look and I turned and seen something white falling and then I heard a thud and we were about sixty feet away. Ruth Antone said that Cody had fallen and we ran around the boiler house to find Cody lying on the ground. Ruth put her hand under his back and lifted him up a little so that I got hold of him and I carried him into the school building where I placed him on a bed in the first floor dormitory. As we came into the building we met Mrs. Erratt and she called for the nurse and told me to put Cody on the bed.

*the nurse*

Witness.

*J. Roy Nicholas*Signed. *Lloyd Nicholas*

Ruth Antone, 17 years of age and a pupil of the Mt. Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing talking to Lloyd Nicholas and Christine Henhawk at the rear of the school building and I looked up and seen Cody at the window of the 2nd floor dormitory and a little later I turned my head again and seen Cody falling. I ran around to where he lay and lifted him up a little so that Lloyd could get a hold of him to carry him into the school building. Cody did not move or cry out at any time after he fell. After entering the building I went to get hot water at the request of the Matron.

Witness.

*J. Roy Nicholas*Signed. *Ruth Antone*

Christine Henhawk, aged 18 years and a pupil of Mount Elgin School states that at about 1 P.M. on the 11th of June, I was standing with Lloyd and Ruth at the rear of the main building when I heard Ruth say that Cody was falling and I turned and seen him and his body did make a complete turn in the air between the upper and lower dormitory windows on the way down. I ran around the boiler house to where Cody was lying on the ground and he did not cry out or move at any time. I seen Ruth help Lloyd get Cody in his arms and carry him into the school building.

Witness.

*J. Roy Nicholas*

Signed.

*Christine Henhawk*

Statements taken from persons who last ~~SAW~~ Courtland (Cody) Claus on the 11th of June and previous to the accident that caused his death.

Lillian George, aged 15 years and a pupil of the Mount Elgin Residential School, states that I was on duty to take the meal to the pupils confined to the dormitories and I was up to the room where Cody was at about 12.20 when I did find him in his bed and which time I removed the dishes that he had used to eat his dinner from.

Witness.

*J. Roylance*

Signed. *Lillian George*

Mella Seth, aged 17 years and a pupil of the Mount Elgin Residential School, states that I was on duty and it was necessary for me to visit the dormitory in which Cody was in bed and that at 12.30 I did see Cody and he at that time was in his bed. Previous to entering the room I did hear noises like some person running around the room, but Cody was in his bed when I entered the room and that is the last time I seen him before the accident that caused his death.

Witness.

*J. Roylance*

Signed. *Mella Seth*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON, CANADA

November 3rd 1944

Dr. W. V. V. Pardy,  
MT. BRYDGES, Ont.

Dear Doctor Pardy:            Re: Miss Helen Seneca

Miss Helen Seneca, age 14, was admitted to Staff Medicine on October 12th.

On admission she was very dyspnoeic, had a low grade temperature and X-ray of the chest showed consolidation of the lower half of the left lung.

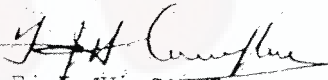
She was put on sulfa therapy and her temperature became normal; the dyspnoea continued; the NPN was 211 with albuminuria; the B.P. was 160 over 135; her W.C. 20,000. She was given saline and glucose intravenously and we were able to get the NPN down to 157. Another portable X-ray of the chest was taken and the lesion on the left side was smaller but infection showed in the right base.

The patient became edematous and clinically showed signs of massive pulmonary edema. Her condition grew steadily worse and she died on October 30th.

We appreciate Rev. Bopers' assistance in obtaining permission for an autopsy for us and the findings of autopsy were as follows:

"Chronic pyelonephritis (bilateral); cardiac hypertrophy and dilatation; albuminous and fatty degeneration of myocardium; pulmonary oedema; lobular pneumonia; acute pleuritis (left); pleural effusion, pericardial effusion; ascites; subcutaneous oedema of legs and vulva; mural cardiac thrombi with puriform softening; chronic passive congestion of liver and spleen; albuminous and fatty degeneration of liver. Multiple chronic duodenal ulcers, acute oesophagitis. Double ureter (left)!"

Yours very sincerely,

  
E. L. H. CAMPBELL

CHIEF, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

A/S