



*New York State Archives*

**Thomas Indian School Children's Case Files B0595**

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## Table of Contents

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Overview of the Records .....	3
Arrangement .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	3
Related Information .....	4
Other Finding Aids .....	5
Use of Records .....	5
Access Terms .....	5

## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series consists of case files for children enrolled in the Thomas Indian School (formerly the Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children). Files contain information on admission, education, discharge, medical and family history, and occasionally post-release activities. Data includes child's name, reservation tribe, age or birth date, and dates at school. Also included is correspondence with parent/guardian and with State Probation Department.
<b>Creator:</b>	Thomas Indian School
<b>Title:</b>	Thomas Indian School children's case files
<b>Quantity:</b>	29 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	122 microfilm reels
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	approximately 1892-1957
<b>Bulk Date:</b>	(bulk 1920-1957)
<b>Series:</b>	B0595

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Alphabetical by last name of student.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of case files of children enrolled in the Thomas Indian School (formerly the Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children) located at Iroquois on the Cattaraugus Reservation. Files contain information on admission, discharge, medical and family history, and occasionally on post-release activities of former students. Children's

enrollment was requested by parents or guardians, local welfare agencies, or the courts due to orphan status, inability of family members to provide adequate care, or neglect.

Case files vary considerably in their contents and may contain any or all of the following: summary giving child's name, reservation, tribe, parents' or guardians' names, age or birthdate, and dates entered and discharged from school; application for enrollment, including brief family and medical history; narrative summary of case (for child enrolled on recommendation of a local welfare agency); Admission of Child to Foster Care Form (for child enrolled on recommendation of a local welfare agency); medical records (present for some cases 1930 or later), including treatments, vaccinations, and occasionally psychiatric evaluations; educational records such as report cards, record of Regents examinations passed, and IQ test results; birth certificate; baptism certificate; social security card; and correspondence.

Included is correspondence of superintendent or social worker with parent or guardian concerning enrollment, vacations, and discharge; of officials of welfare agencies concerning enrollment, discharge, or verification of age of child; of State Probation Department concerning past history of former students; of Children's Court concerning placement of children in the school; and of former students (some students sent letters for many years after they left the school).

Researchers should note that the case files vary greatly in the amount of documentation present on each student; in some cases only the admission form and a few other documents are included in the file. In addition, case files are not present for some children who were admitted to the Thomas Indian School. A typewritten list of children admitted and discharged, 1855-1955, is found in Box 2, Folder 10. The list is titled: "Thomas Indian School - Names of Children Received and Discharged Since the Founding of the Institution, 1855-1955."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

A1910Series A1910, Child Commitment Contracts, contains 1881-1896 contracts to place children in the Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Children

A1909Series A1909, Register of Trustees, Indian Children, and Visitors, is a listing of children placed in asylums prior to 1881.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

Container and microfilm roll lists are available at the repository.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

Restricted: Access to records is administered according to provisions of the Freedom of Information Law.

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## Access Terms

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- School children
- Assisting children
- Schools--Records and correspondence
- Educating Native American children
- Cattaraugus Indian Reservation (N.Y.)
- New York (State)
- Indians of North America--Education
- Erie County (N.Y.)
- Iroquois (N.Y.)
- Forms (documents)
- Medical records
- Education
- Applications
- Case files
- Administering schools
- Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children
- New York (State). Department of Social Welfare
- New York (State). State Board of Charities
- New York (State). Department of Charities