

**“They are slow to appreciate school privileges that have been provided for them.”**

Major James F. Randlett took over as Indian Agent in 1894. In his first report, he noted that enrollment at the Uintah boarding school “has been sufficient to overcrowd the school buildings and dormitories.” His report listed total enrollment at 78 and average enrollment at 59.



([Uintah County Regional History Center](#))

Superintendents for both the Uintah and Ouray boarding schools wrote reports that were included this year — with both men focused on detailing the labor provided by the students.

UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY, White Rocks, Utah, August 9, 1894  
James F. Randlett, Major, U.S. Army, Acting U.S. Indian Agent

***Excerpts***

I assumed charge of the agency on the 24th day of July, 1893, relieving citizen Robert Waugh.

I regret that the condition of affairs of the agency was not found to contain so much for satisfaction and promise as had been represented by my predecessor, and that, although much effort has been expended upon these Indians in the past year, they are still far from "the high road to prosperity and civilization."

The agency comprises the supervision of affairs pertaining to the Uintahs, White Rivers, and Uncompahgres of the confederated bands of Ute Indians.

The Uintahs and White Rivers are located on the Uintah Reservation, with agency headquarters

at White Rocks, near base of Uintah Mountains, while the Uncompahgres are located on what is known as the Uncompahgre Reservation, with headquarters of the agency, which is known as Ouray, and a subagency of Uintah, at Ouray, 33 miles south from White Rocks.

During the past year these agency headquarters have been provided with communication by telephone, the line running from White Rocks through Fort Duchesne, thence to Ouray Indian boarding school (4 miles below Duchesne) and on to the agency at Ouray.

The Uintahs and White Rivers occupy a large extent of territory, some of them living as far as 60 miles from White Rocks; they seem, however, inclined to come in and locate nearer the agency. Old Tabby, the principal chief of the Uintahs, now probably a hundred years old, lives far away on the Upper Duchesne. He clings to his home there, but he can not last long, and when he is gone all of his people will want to come in and take lands nearer the agency.

The Indians of the Uintah Reservation, although well disposed and peaceable, have never been inclined, as a whole, to rapid advancement in ways of civilization, and have appeared to look upon efforts made in their behalf with distrust and as endangering their rights in their reservation.

They are slow to appreciate school privileges that have been provided for them, and cling to the idea that sending children to school is a favor conferred upon the agent, for which they should receive some separate reward or favor. This is gradually being overcome, I think, and the most of those whose children have been in the school the past year realize that they have been benefited thereby.

The school at this agency has been conducted under the superintendence of I. S. Binford, a person thoroughly devoted to his duties, and who has worked hard to keep the pupils in place and for the general success of the enterprise. The enrollment of pupils has been more than 80, while 10 of this number have been transferred to the school at Grand Junction, Colo. The average attendance for the school year has been 57. This number has been sufficient to overcrowd the school buildings and dormitories, which has naturally tended toward laxity in discipline.

An administration building is now under construction, with apartments for school employes. When this is completed the dormitory accommodation for pupils will have been increased, and it is hoped another year will bring about large increase of average attendance and a better record for the school generally.

### **Ouray Agency**

The Uncompahgres are the most intellectual Indians I have met. They esteem themselves as the remnant of a once powerful tribe, and view their present condition as resulting from physical afflictions and other unavoidable necessities, in which they are bound to abide submissively and without complaint. It has been found very hard work to arouse them from apathy and convince

them that we are sincere in our efforts for improving their welfare. This has been particularly illustrated in our experience in starting the school for their children, which could not have been successfully accomplished except through the combined effort of every employé of the agency, which it has received.

The school is located 4 miles below Fort Duchesne, on the bank of the Uintah River, and just above its confluence with the waters of the Duchesne. The accommodations are comprised in three two-story brick structures, one designed exclusively for recitation and school exercises, one for dormitory for boys and apartments for male employés, the other as dormitory for girls, and with rooms for female employés. On the ground floor in this building are located kitchen and dining room, laundry, bath, and sitting rooms for the entire school.

Plans for a building to be used as laundry have been submitted, which, if approved by the Department and construction authorized, will greatly relieve the situation. The work of constructing a residence for school physician, a barn for animals pertaining to the schools, a storehouse and workshop combined, and a gymnasium for the boys is now going on. These improvements will be completed by the 15th of September. Plans are being prepared for a water system, which will be indispensable to safety against fire, as well as for convenience and the sanitary welfare of the school.

As a result of the efforts made to get the children into this school, 48 have been enrolled during the school year, with an average attendance of 42 during the last month of the school year. Considering the apathy exhibited by the men and the determined opposition manifested by the sq—s concerning the schools, this is considered as remarkable success. The progress that was made in teaching these pupils in the schoolroom has been wonderful.

The grounds about the school buildings have been leveled and provided with irrigating ditches; trees and grass have been planted successfully and the place has an attractive appearance; 30 acres of land adjoining the school grounds have been fenced and cultivated as a field this year, also 4 acres for garden purposes.

The 30-acre lot was seeded with oats and alfalfa. The oats were cut before ripening for use as fodder for animals and to give better chance for the alfalfa, which promises well, and another year this field, if properly tended, will provide all the hay that will be required for as many animals as it may be desirable for the school to keep. The work of fencing and cultivating the land has been done principally by Industrial Teacher [Albert] Rube and the boys of the school. Teacher Walker has been a hard worker in assisting Mr. Rube, as well as in his schoolroom, and well merits this mention.

The Uncompahgres when once they have adopted an idea are determinedly devoted to its support, and everything looks as if the success of Ouray Indian boarding school has been secured.

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF OURAY SCHOOL**

OURAY SCHOOL, June 30, 1894

SIR: In compliance with paragraph 42, Rules for Indian Schools, I have the honor to submit this my second annual report.

At the opening of the school, September 4, 1893, 12 pupils were present. This number increased to 46 during the year, 44 being present during the last month.

During the first month of the year the work in the schoolroom devolved on the superintendent entirely. October 7 a teacher was appointed, and on February 5 another was added. As, with one exception, none of these children had ever been in school to exceed two months, the work here, as in other departments, has been exceedingly difficult. The children have made good progress, though it has been especially difficult to induce them to use English in conversation. Yet fair work has been done in this line.

The girls have been regularly detailed to work in the kitchen, laundry, and sewing room and to assist the matron in other housework. These details have been changed weekly, so that all the girls have had the same amount of work in each department. All the work in the kitchen and dining "room has been done with the assistance of the girls. They have done good work here. On a few occasions, when the work was especially heavy, it has been necessary to detail boys to assist in the laundry; aside from this, all the work has been done with the assistance of the girls, and they have usually done the work well.

In the sewing room, in addition to the mending, the girls have assisted in making their own clothes and underclothes for the boys, as well as the other necessary sewing for the school.

Under the matron's direction the girls have cared for their own dormitories, and the halls, play room, and bathroom in their own building. The boys have been trained to care for their own dormitories and building.

The boys have assisted in all the outdoor work, sawing wood, hauling water, caring for stock, irrigating and cultivating the field and garden.

A field of about 30 acres has been fenced and sowed in oats and alfalfa. The oats promise a fair yield, and it is expected that the alfalfa will furnish abundance of hay after the present year. The garden has been well watered and cared for, but being on new land does not promise an abundant yield.

About 100 shade trees have been planted, nearly all living and growing nicely. These add much to the appearance of the premises.

The barn, gymnasium, shop, and storeroom, now under contract, will be much needed improvements. The school is still in need of suitable bathrooms, laundry, and some means of piping water into the buildings.

During the cold weather of the past winter all the water had to be hauled from the river, and to avoid freezing it was necessary to keep the barrels in the halls. The slop and dirt caused by the daily filling of these barrels were the source of much discomfort, as well as extra labor.

Very respectfully,  
LEWIS D. WATERS,  
Superintendent

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF UNITAH SCHOOL**

WHITE ROCKS, UTAH, July 26, 1894.

SIR: In compliance with section 42, revised rules (1894), I have the honor of submitting this my annual report of the Unitah boarding school. I believe I can say without fear of successful contradiction that we have just closed the most profitable year's work that has ever been done for the Ute school children.

Attendance. Our average attendance (57) for the year was 18 higher than last year and 16 more than any previous year. This increase in attendance I attribute largely to the growing friendliness on the part of the Indians toward the school.

Health. The general health of the school has been very good, but one serious case of sickness occurring during the year.

Improvements. We have made several improvements during the last year. Heretofore the children were bathed in washing tubs, in two small rooms which were a part of our two school buildings. Last fall the school employes, assisted some by those of the agency, erected a bathhouse 16 by 36, and the Department furnished us modern bath tubs and apparatus for heating water, so that now we are able to make this part of our work a success. We have also built a laundry 16 by 20, and a root house 16 by 22.

This work and the preparing of the necessary fuel, caring for 2 mules, 4 cows, and 5 acres of garden and orchard has been done by the school boys under the supervision of the school employes. Last season we harvested 230 bushels potatoes, 7 bushels beans, and several loads of squash, besides other vegetables.

School. The class-room work has been marked by progress during the year, and several classes advanced to a higher grade. Kindergarten methods were adopted and found successful with the little children, while the "course of study" was followed as far as practicable in teaching other grades. All of the older pupils understand and speak English. With but few exceptions the

children of this branch of the Ute tribe are very slow in learning, and it requires patient and long-continued effort, with a great deal of reviewing, before much advancement is made.

Ten children were transferred from this school to Grand Junction during the year.

Industries. The sewing room has turned out the necessary amount of work for the supply of the school. The girls have been given instruction in mending, cutting, and fitting garments for themselves, as well as the necessary darning and repairing for the boys. The boys and girls do all the washing and the girls the ironing, under the supervision of a competent laundress. Our cook deserves praise for her splendid management of the girls and for the quality and variety of the dishes prepared from materials furnished. The matron has been a willing helper wherever her services were most needed.

The future for this school is bright. Our agent is zealously determined to place this school upon a basis with older ones in the service, and to this end he has secured permission to put up a third large building, under contract, which is now in process of construction. When this is ready for occupancy our room for children will be very much increased. This extra capacity will be filled with camp children whose parents have heretofore been opposed to schools.

In conclusion, I recommend the continuance of the services of all employés now upon the Uintah school roll.

Very respectfully,  
J. S. BINFORD,  
Superintendent

EMPLOYÉS OF INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE.

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*List of employes under the Indian Bureau, etc.—Continued.*

EMPLOYED IN THE INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE, JUNE 30, 1894—Continued.

Name.	Position.	Salary.	Sex.	Col- or.	Date of present ap- pointment.	Item of appro- priation.
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<i>Uintah and Ouray Agency, Utah.</i>							Act June 15, 1880 (21 Stat., 204); Act Mar. 3, 1893 (27 Stat., 634).
OURAY BOARDING SCHOOL.							
Lewis D. Waters .....	Superintendent and principal teacher.	1,000	M.	W.	July 1, 1893		
Sarah Waters .....	Matron .....	720	F.	W.	....do .....		
Christena Mease .....	Teacher .....	720	F.	W.	Oct. 9, 1893		
Albert Rube .....	Industrial teacher .....	720	M.	W.	July 1, 1893		
Kate Culler .....	Cook .....	500	F.	W.	Sept. 1, 1893		
Sallie Duvall .....	Seamstress .....	500	F.	W.	July 1, 1893		
G. H. Johnson .....	Carpenter .....	720	M.	W.	Nov. 1, 1893		
Katie Connor .....	Laundress .....	400	F.	W.	Dec. 1, 1893		
UINTAH BOARDING SCHOOL.							Act Mar. 3, 1893 (27 Stat., 634).
J. S. Binford .....	Superintendent and principal teacher.	1,000	M.	W.	July 1, 1893		
Allie B. Busby .....	Teacher .....	720	F.	W.	....do .....		
Libbie C. Stanley .....	....do .....	720	F.	W.	....do .....		
Minnie J. Binford .....	Matron .....	720	F.	W.	....do .....		
B. R. Shimp .....	Industrial teacher .....	720	M.	W.	....do .....		
Ella Calkins .....	Cook .....	500	F.	W.	....do .....		
Olive M. Wayman .....	Laundress .....	500	F.	W.	....do .....		
Lillian Malaby .....	Seamstress .....	400	F.	W.	Sept. 1, 1893		