

Carter King Research Continues to Go Above and Beyond



By Michelle Danforth-Anderson

In the summer of 2024, Carter King embarked on his next Tourism project to recreate four sets of boarding school uniforms for the Salt Pork Avenue Log Home exhibits. The uniforms will include two styles of girl's everyday dress, boy's everyday suit, and boy's everyday dress uniform. For uniform reference, Oneida is blessed with an assortment of Oneida boarding school photos from the early 1900s housed at the Oneida Museum. His research also uncovered documents from several archives, including the Nation Archives in both Chicago and Washington DC to find purchasing and fiscal records that are not present in the Gordon McLester archive materials. Additional photographs were found at Milwaukee Public Museum, the Neville Public Museum, the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and the Library of Congress. In the Department of the Interior's Warehouse for Indian Supplies, at the National Archives, there is a list of anything and everything to run a boarding school from food to clothes and more, as determined by the federal government. A ledger from the Oneida Boarding school purchases, letters, and employee costs for the school are additional examples. "This has been such a worthwhile investment of our resources. The most exciting addition on

top of all the valuable information provided was the colorization of some of the boarding school photos. It is unbelievable how it makes that period of time come alive," said Michelle Danforth-Anderson, Director of Marketing and Tourism.

Carter commented, "Our next steps are drafting patterns and procuring the final cuts fabrics. In the next few months, the stitching process will begin, and we will see these reproduction uniforms come to life. I feel like it's critical now to keep the buzz around the Federal Boarding School Initiative's dialogue open with the renewed interest between Canada and U.S. governments and organizations in boarding schools. By creating these uniforms, we have an opportunity to learn and heal generational trauma. This could be an incredibly unique opportunity for a living exhibit and the Amelia Cornelius Culture Park making history come alive and educating students and community members beyond just looking at photographs and archival material.

