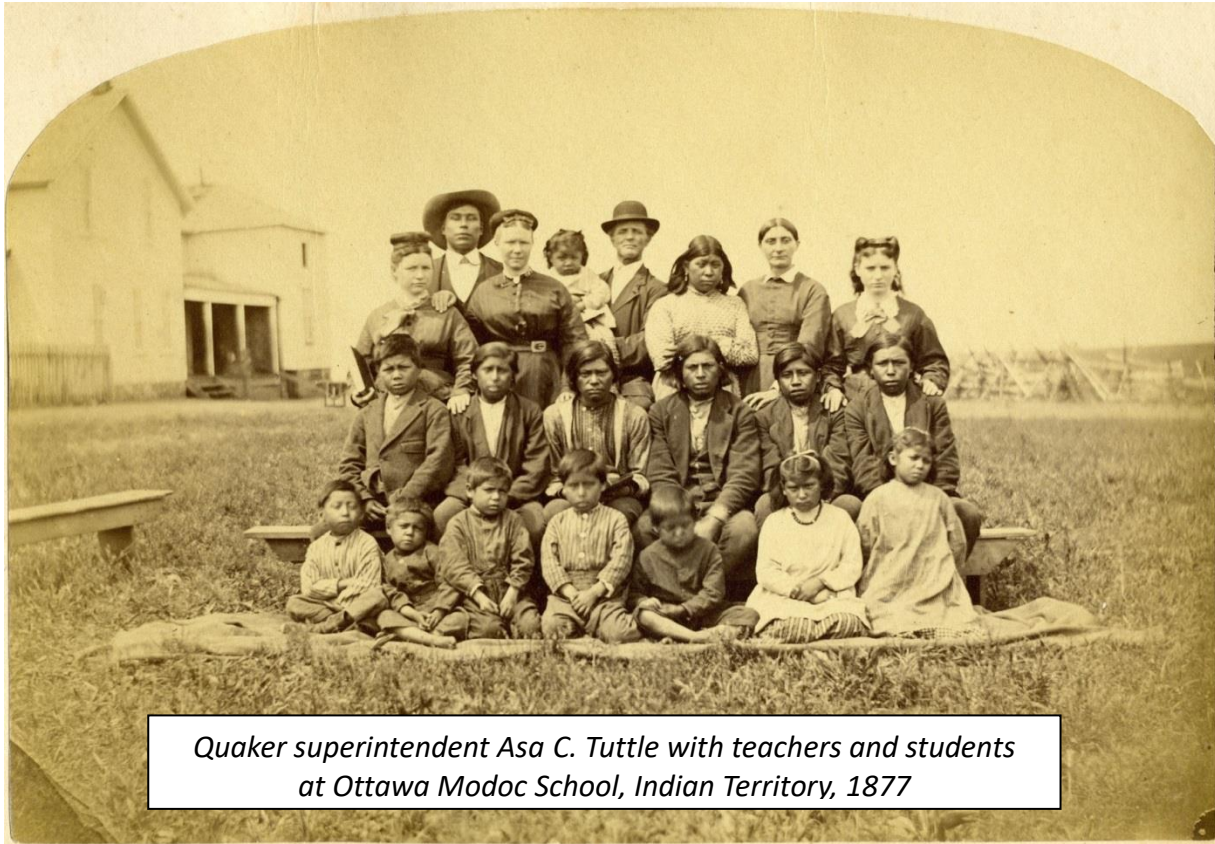


# The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools

## *Facing our History and Ourselves*



*Quaker superintendent Asa C. Tuttle with teachers and students  
at Ottawa Modoc School, Indian Territory, 1877*

Native American organizations are asking churches to join in a Truth and Reconciliation process to bring about healing for Native American families that continue to suffer the consequences of the Indian boarding schools. With support from Pendle Hill (the Cadbury scholarship), Friends Historical Library (the Moore Fellowship), the Native American Rights Fund, and other Friendly sources, Paula Palmer researched the role that Friends played in implementing the federal government's policy of forced assimilation of Native children. For a link to her 50-minute slide presentation and other resources, please see [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research).

Paula Palmer's ministry, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples," is under the care of Boulder Friends Meeting. Please contact her at [paulaRpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:paulaRpalmer@gmail.com).

*Query: What does this history and its impact on Native communities mean for Friends today?*



**Paula Palmer** is a sociologist, writer, and activist for human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. As director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a project of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee of the Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers), she created and facilitates workshops titled, “*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America’s Native Peoples*” (for adults) and “*Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization*” (for middle schools and high schools).

For 17 years, as executive director of the non-profit organization, Global Response, Paula directed over 70 international campaigns to help Indigenous peoples and local communities defend their rights and prevent environmental destruction. In Costa Rica, where she lived for 20 years, she published five books of oral history in collaboration with Afro-Caribbean and Bribri Indigenous peoples, through a community empowerment process known as Participatory Action Research.

From 1995 to 2001, Paula served as editor for health and environment of *Winds of Change* magazine, a publication of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She holds an M.A. degree in sociology from Michigan State University and has taught courses in the Environmental Studies Department at Naropa University. She is profiled in *American Environmental Leaders From Colonial Times to the Present* (ABC-CLIO, 2000), and *Biodiversity: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO 1998).

Paula is a recipient of the Elise Boulding Peacemaker of the Year Award (given by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center), the Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award (given by the American Friends Service Committee), the International Human Rights Award (given by the United Nations Association of Boulder County), the Multicultural Award in the Partners category (given by Boulder County Community Action Programs), and the 2016 Cadbury Scholarship (given by Pendle Hill).

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