

None, Alaska. May 17, 1916

Mr. Charles Replogle,  
Noorvik, Alaska.

Dear Sir :

I have your letter of March 26 in regard to the disposition of the deer left by Jacob Akak who died this winter. This matter was carefully considered by the Chief Herders Committee at the Fair and their recommendations are approved, especially as they follow closely the wishes of the deceased.

As soon as it is possible to mark the deer, half of the deer left by Jacob are to receive a new mark, the mark of Noorvik village. For the present none of the females except such as are barren, are to be disposed of, but all marketable males are to be sold and the proceeds used by the village as you and the village Council may determine. The other half are to retain Jacobs mark and will be the property of Jacobs father while he lives and are then to go to the half brother. Please inform the father that unless the same is specially recommended by you, I will not approve any sales of females from this herd as the father simply has a life interest in the deer and he has no right to do anything that will reduce the herd. To put this in proper form you should prepare two red (herders) contracts. One to be signed by the president of your council for the village, and the other by the father. The fathers contract should contain an added clause to

the effect that

"These deer are to be held in trust by the party of the second part for....., and none of the females are to be disposed of except on special authority by the party of the first part, until ..... becomes of age and has signed a contract in his own name.

The village contract should contain the added clause,

"These deer are held in trust by the Council of Noorvik Village for the benefit of the entire community and none of the females are to be disposed of except on special authority. This added section will also apply to all deer that may in the future be given to the Council in trust for the village."

At this time it would be well to impress upon all the reindeer men the vital necessity of their filing with my office, through you, their wishes in respect to their deer after their death.

In your letter you refer to "Jacob Carter" and on the reindeer reports there is only "Jacob Akak". Now a new man or one of the outside offices would have been very uncertain as to the identity of this dead man. I know how hard it is to go against an established custom, but on all Government records at least, we MUST have the Eskimo names.

Very truly yours,