

339

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd JAN 8

1881

White Thunder et al
Rosebud
Rel. to deaths at Car
slide of Ernest
& Mand. wants
their bodies sent
home

Map line

See letter 1837 4/81 fr. Pratt with
endorsement.

~~Letter to Agent Cook Jan 27/81.~~

Cook

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United States Indian Service,

Rosebud

Agency, D. 16

Dec. 27th, 1880.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir,

We have just heard with greatest sorrow of the death our Children. Ernest and Maud. We have had frequent letters from Capt. Pratt in regard to our Children, but did not think their cases hopeless.

We gave them up cheerfully to the great father to educate believing that when they came back to us they would not only be of great help to us their parents but that the civilizing influences brought to bear upon them would, ^{be} a stimulus to our people to follow quickly the ways and customs of the whites. Alas they will not come to us helps to teach our people. They are gone from earth forever, gone to join the others of our Children in the land of the Great Spirit. The jewels are gone

"Potter Tail" is mourning and desiring to say to you that, he thinks when "our children" get sick & the Dr. cannot help them they ought to be sent home - for if they are to die we want them to die at home.

The castles are only left and they are far very far away from us. We cannot bear to have them sleep so far from their earthly home. Our hearts will grieve too long if we do not have what is left of them back to our homes.

We want to deck their graves with our own hands. we want when the birds begin to sing & the flowers begin to bloom to have them where we can strew their graves with flowers and have them hear (in their spirits) the sweet songs of the "angel birds" that flutter around and about their quiet resting places.

Now my dear friend, you have always been good and kind to us. we are in a deep sorrow now. we do not blame you or any one for the great loss we have sustained.

We do want you to do one thing for us and want you to do it as quickly as you can.

We want you to send us the remains of our dear children. It will help us to drive away the deep sorrow we feel and in time will make our hearts glad once more. If you have any love for us we hope you will do this.
Signed. White Thunder & Swift Bear for us.

339
INDIAN OFFICE
Incls: No. 2
1891.

Rosebud Agency, Dak.
Dec. 27th, 1880

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Sir,

We have just heard with greatest sorrow of the death of our children, Ernest and Maud. We have had frequent letters from Capt. Pratt in regard to our children, but did not think their causes hopeless.

We gave them up cheerfully to the great father to educate believing that, when they came back to us they would not only be of great help to us their parents but that the civilizing influences brought to bear upon them would be a stimulus to our people to follow quickly the ways and customs of the whites. Alas they will not come to us helps to teach our people. They are gone from earth forever, gone to join the other of our children in the Land of the Great Spirit. The jewels are gone

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the caskets are only left and they are far very far away from us. We cannot bear to have them sleep so far from their earthly home. Our hearts will grieve too long if we do not have what is left of them back to our homes. We want to dick [dig] their graves with our own hands. We want when the birds begin to sing & the flowers begin to bloom to have them where we can strew their graves with flowers and have them hear (in their spirits) the sweet songs of the angel birds that feather around and about their quiet nesting places.

Now my dear friend, you have always been good and kind to us. We are in a deep sorrow now. We do not blame you of any one for the great loss we have sustained. We do want you to do one thing for us and want you to do it as quickly as you can. We want you to send us the remains of our dear children. It will help us to drive away the deep sorrow we feel and in time will make our hearts glad once more. If you have any love for us we hope you will do this for us.

Signed, White Thunder & Swift Bear

Spotted Tail is present and desires to say to you that he thinks when "our children" get sick & the Dr. cannot help them they ought to be sent home, for if they are to die we want them to die at home.

Spotted Tail