

21302

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd DEC 8

1881

R. H. Pratt

Casile,

Dec. 5-81

Enc. Correspond
ence rel. to a
Navajo Ind.
girl + requests
authority to see
her at the school

2 inc

ans. Dec 7/81

Miss Cook

United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., December 5 1891

To the Honorable

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

Sir:

I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. Engory, Principal of the Clair Presbyterian Academy, Plainstown, N.J. Also one from Dr. J. V. Lauderdale, Asst. Surgeon, U.S.A. [copies of which I enclose] in relation to a Navajo Indian girl. It is so important to make a break among the Navajos in favor of education that I request the Department will authorize me to receive this girl at the school, who may prove a valuable aid in securing others from the tribe as soon as we obtain an appropriation.

Very respectfully

RH Pratt

1st Lieut. 10th Cav.
In charge.

21302

INDIAN OFFICE

Inclos: No. 2

1881

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McPherson Barracks,
Atlanta Ga, Nov. 30, 1881

Capt. R. W. Batt, U.S.A.
Carlisle, Pa.

My Dear Sir:

I believe I met you one evening in the city of New York at the church on Madison Square, when Dr. Adams, of your own persuasion, presented to the congregation there assembled, the subject of Indian education. I had with you a Kiowa boy who made a few remarks. The subject interested me very much at that time and I have not lost any interest in it. About that time I think (it was in November 1878) I had just returned from Ft. Wingate, N. M., and brought with me a little girl - a halfbreed Navajo, and placed her in the school of Brog. Gregory at Blainstown, N. J. where I intended and her white friends that she left behind in the Territory intended she should remain until she should be sufficiently well educated to be able to become a teacher among her Indian friends, when she should return to them. It is now three years since she was placed in that school, and we have been anxious that she should become proficient in her studies and we have also earnestly desired that such a change should be brought about in her moral

nature, that she would feel herself no longer her own, but
 willing to do all she could for the good of those who have not
 enjoyed the advantages she now enjoys. Her teacher writes that she
 is not a christian & she has not much hope that the girl will
 prove a help to anyone as a teacher. We still hope that the three
 years at school will not be lost to her, but that the influence brought
 to bear upon her may work out something good for her, & for those
 with whom she may come in contact. Her friends have also learn-
 ed that this girl has not had as much attention given her to acquire
 a knowledge of her books as they think she should have had. They
 think she has had too much housework to perform & that her studies
 have been neglected in part, when it was our intention she should
 have an education. Now we think perhaps a change in her school
 may be beneficial & would have her go to a school where she will
 receive that kind of instruction, which will make her most
 useful as a teacher to the rising generation of Navajos. We
 have thought a few months at your Indian training school
 might do her some good & might be an incentive to her to
 study & make herself useful as a teacher. She is about
 sixteen years of age, very large for her years. Has a sweet
 voice & has acquired a little knowledge of music.
 Should her friends that she is now with regard this plan

a good one. ^{And} should they visit you or ask you to receive her as an inmate of this school, I would ask as a favor that you would accept her ^{And} do for her all that can be done, towards making her proficient as a teacher; that when she returns to N. B. they may be prepared to do something for improving the condition of her mother's race. Should she ask for admission to your school ^{And} become an inmate of it let me hear from you ^{And} I will give you more information about her.

Feeling a deep interest in the good work you are engaged in ^{And} wishing for you the greatest success, I remain,

Yours very sincerely
 (Sgd) J. T. Landerdale
 (Assistant Surgeon, U.S.A.)

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INDIAN OFFICE

1881

Inclos: No. /

51305

Plainstown, N. J. November 28, 1881.

Captain R. H. Pratt,

Dear Sir:

A Navajo girl has been studying in this institution for nearly three years, her name is Antoniette P. Williams, & she is now 13, perhaps 14, years of age, but large for her age. Formerly living with Mrs. Crane at Orion Springs, she came east under the care of Dr. John Lauderdale, U.S.A. formerly at Ft. Wingate. Ladison Ceneuo, N.Y. contributed \$20. per annum towards her support here, while Mrs. Crane undertook to clothe her. The principal contributor at Ceneuo (Miss Piggard) has died & Dr. Lauderdale's sister writes asking Mrs. Engory to convey her to your care at Carlisle at once & saying that her brother will write to you. It is best that she should go, but we feel apprehensive of finding, if my wife starts at once, that you are not expecting the pupil, perhaps not even able to take her.

Therefore this letter, Mrs. Engory would like a few days to add a little to the child's stock of clothing, & if your answer should as we hope, be favorable, will start about next Monday (Dec. 5th) & spending a day or two in Philadelphia to show her what may be seen without much expense, will reach Carlisle about Sunday, 8th.

Antoinette is large, good looking, healthy, mild,
in manners, of good capacity & has a turn for music
to which she has given a little attention. For several weeks
she has not been studying, but assisting in the housework,
but before that she studied more or less at all, or in
any considerable degree, to be interfered with, yet she
was able to render us some assistance. Dr. Lauderdale
will see to reimbursing us for the cost of bringing her.
Your answer informing us that she may come will
make our way plain.

Yours very respectfully
(Sgd) H. D. Gregory.

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