

14355

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Rec'd AUG 8

1883

R. H. Pratt

Carlisle school

Aug. 6. 1883.

Transmits copy of his  
letter to the Secretary  
of the Int. rel. to renting  
Wilson College, at Chambers-  
burg, Pa. for a school for  
girls -

line

~~File~~

Ans. Aug. 8/83

Book - C/2/  
200

Director of Indian Affairs

BRITISH BARRACKS FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

CARLISLE BARRACKS

Pratt

1883



United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1883

Hon. H. Price

Com<sup>r</sup> of Ind<sup>n</sup> Affs

Sir.

When in Wash<sup>n</sup> of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July I explained to Mr Stevens in your absence the objects exposed in the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. Mr Stevens took me to the Asst. Secy. Mr Jozelyn, who advised the course I pursued. I have no response from Mr Keller and only three days remain until the time expires, which the Board of Trustees fixed as the limit of their waiting for a determination.

Do you think it worth while to ask more time in case no reply reaches you from Mr Keller?

Very respectfully  
W. Paul  
Capt. & Sup.



14355

INDIAN OFFICE

1883.

Inclot: No.

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in a Native American script, possibly Ojibwa or Cree, written on lined paper.]*

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RECEIVED  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.



Dictated.

Copy

**United States Indian Service,**

**TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,**

**CARLISLE BARRACKS,**

Carlisle, Pa., July 28 1883

Hon. H. M. Teller  
Denver.  
Col

Sir:

I visited Washington on Monday in order to lay before you a proposition which had been made to me by the Trustees of Wilson College at Chambersburg, about 33 miles West from Carlisle. It is so important and appears to me so advantageous that I write directly to you being advised thereto by Mr Joslyn and Mr Lockwood.

Wilson College has been an Institution for the higher education of young ladies somewhat in the line of Tassar. It was established some thirteen years ago. The Board of Trustees have been unable to secure sufficient patronage to make the Institution able to pay its own way and



with the exception of three years they have been compelled to make up considerable deficiencies each year, and so have determined to abandon for the present the attempt at that kind of education. They have a beautiful property, thirty acres of ground, quite an abundance of fruit, plenty of room for gardening, suitable pasturage for a limited number of cows, a building under one roof ample to accommodate one hundred (100) girls, lying just without the borough limits of Chambersburg and the buildings heated by steam. There is a gymnasium a separate building two cottage houses suitable for a gardener and such man help as is necessary, a large spring, good spring house and indeed generally the appointments of a first class institution. The Conococheague a fine stream of water runs through the property. They have invested in land and improvements nearly 80,000 dollars. The Institution is incorporated by the State. They are in debt and under mortgage to the extent of 17,000 dollars



They now propose to lease me the property for a term of five years for what will pay the interest on their indebtedness, the taxes and the cost of insurance which will amount in all, to Twelve hundred dollars. (\$1200.<sup>00</sup>) I find that I can secure from friends of Carlisle the amount necessary to cover this. I propose therefore that the Department take this place and establish a school for Indian girls either under its own independent management or allow me to do so in connection with Carlisle. In either case I will secure the sum necessary to pay the rental. I have no preferences in the matter. Should you desire it, I can readily manage it as a part of the Carlisle school and carry it forward upon the same footing and I believe with as much economy as it can be carried otherwise, but my present responsibility is large and fully up to my ambition. It cannot of course be run as cheaply the first year as it can the succeeding ones as there will be furniture &c to buy.



I feel safe in saying however that I can undertake it, can secure the pupils and have the institution under full headway by the end of October, provided I may have as much as 200 dollars per scholar and their transportation expenses paid to Chambersburg this present fiscal year. After that I shall expect 175 dollars per year or less to be sufficient. As an attachment to Carlisle it would have the advantage of being conducted without an additional set of Property Papers. I took the liberty to consult with Mr Hoog in regard to funds, who informed me that the Clause in the Appropriation Bill this year giving Four hundred thousand dollars, (400,000.<sup>00</sup>) would furnish the means if you determine on it. He also stated that it could be run on Civilization funds.

The Trustees must have a decision within Twelve days from this date else it is their intention to let the mortgages be foreclosed with a view to the property passing into a local educational institution for



the uses of the village. On receipt of this if you telegraph me your wishes, either that the Department will take it up for a special school, or to "go ahead for Carlisle" or to "drop it", I will arrange accordingly.

If used in connection with Carlisle my idea would be to put our advanced girls there and carry forward such Industrial work as would be possible, pursuing the Carlisle system of planting out and thereby increasing the number to be carried on a given allowance. A large number of influential people interested in Wilson College would naturally give us some attention and encouragement which together with its proximity to Carlisle would prevent many of the difficulties encountered in starting here. I should say it would be as well to draw largely from Rosebud and Pine Ridge for girls. My intention is to go to the Indian Territory after the thirty Pawnees and Ponca's authorized by the Department and I have encouraged the Cheyenne and Kiowa.



Agencies to think they can increase their number here this year. I have re-employed Mr Standing who is wearied waiting for Lerwa and he and his wife could bring in what we gather in the Indian Territory. In the meantime I could send Miss Burgess to Rosebud and Pine Ridge with one or two pupils as I did last year and she feels confident we could get the girls if we went for them only.

After starting Standing east, I could join Miss Burgess on Dakota and we could bring in the party - If this plan is approved by you for Carlisle I shall expect to begin our winter work with from Five hundred to Five hundred and fifty pupils, about Two hundred and twenty five of whom would be girls.

Very respectfully

(Signed) R. H. Pratt

Capt and Supt.