

15504

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Rec'd AUG 22

1883

R. N. Pratt  
Carlisle School  
Aug. 20. 1883

Trans. letter from Agt.  
Rindan rel. to death  
of Manuelito's son, &  
rel. to the Navajo pupils  
now at Carlisle - also  
rel. to proposed transfer  
to Navajo Agency of  
Robert Stuart & Anton-  
ette Williams -

inc  
~~file~~

Letter to Rindan Aug. 23/83

Alvin Clark

212

*Handwritten notes on the left page of the notebook, including names and dates, written in cursive.*

**United States Indian Service,**

**TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,**

**CARLISLE BARRACKS,**

Carlisle, Pa., August 20, 1883.

To the Honorable

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Sir:

I enclose herein copy of a letter this morning received from Agent Riordan, from the Navajo Agency. I have submitted its contents to Robert Stuart and Antoinette Williams, for whom I wrote for authority for transportation to you on the 16<sup>th</sup>. They both declare they are unwilling to go to the Navajo Agency under the changed and uncertain circumstances this letter indicates, and they desire to put off their marriage for the present on that account. Unless something better should offer, I can use both to good advantage here at Carlisle.

In regard to the Navajo boys,

2. Comm'r.

I will make a communication af-  
ter further consideration of the case.

Very respectfully,

R. H. Pratt

Capt and Supt.

Copied

U. S. Indian Service

Navajo Agency

St. Defiance Ariz. Aug 13. 1883

Capt R. W. Pratt  
Carlisle. Pa.

My dear Sir:

I reached home on Friday evening last and was greatly shocked to learn of the death of Manuelito's son, Manuelito (Jou). The boy died seven days after he reached home. The effect is very bad. Manuelito is greatly depressed and all the relatives of the boys now with you are anxious and alarmed. The loss of two of the party has the usual effect on unreasoning and ignorant minds. I had a long talk with the heads of the tribe last night and have continued it several hours to-day. Manuelito demands positively that the boys be sent home. He says that if, after an interview with the boys, they still desire to stay at school he will consent to send them to Albuquerque, but they must come back now. I promised to tell you what he said. He feels very sore (as he puts it) about his boy

being sent home to die and blames some one - he hardly knows who - because the boy was not sent home at first and also because his brother was not sent with him. I scarcely know what to advise. I think it would be well if arrangements could be made to send Manuelito Chiquito home but am not ready to advise the return of all the boys. I am told that Manuelito was very violent after the death of his son; that he said he did not care now what his people did, they might rob and plunder as they pleased. Be that as it may I cooled him down, but the wound is rankling.

I do not know what to say to you about the young people, Robert and Nettie. When I wrote you from Washington I was fresh from a final interview with the Commissioner and others. I saw the warmest interest manifested in the work here and an earnest desire to assist in all possible ways to make it a success. I was in high spirits and

thought I saw my way clear to become effective. But I had an interview with some officers of the Treasury and became convinced as a result that there is no safety for a man in this position under present conditions. No care, faithful attention to duty or honesty would avail to protect a man from loss on a mere quibble or matter of opinion rendered by a man twenty five hundred miles away, who knew nothing whatever of the circumstances and did not care so it advanced his own interests. And I saw that I was liable to have to defend myself at some time, at my own expense, from some unjust or outrageous charge. The consequence was I forwarded my resignation.

This ought not affect the future of Robert and Kettie unless my successor should prove to be a man who cared nothing about them or their work. I sincerely trust that no such misfortune will befall this people. They are now in a transition period and apparently ready

for a forward jump if wisely handled.

But I deemed it my duty to lay this before you. I shall be here a month or more yet, and shall install the youngsters, under our arrangement. And surely my leaving (or my death, if it came) ought not defeat this plan. It shall not if any thing I can do will prevent.

I am very truly yours

(Signed)

D. M. Riordan.

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