

7046

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
REC'D MAR 14

1888

23/187

Jessie C. Knox,

Aitkin, Minn

Feb. 27, 1888,

Rel. to Indian children
of Mill Lac, and Sandy
Lake, Mr. W. B. Murr rec-
ommends to be sent to
the Carlisle School.

wrapper

Ans'd ~~Apr. 2-88~~

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Education, 28971. 1887.

Atkins, Minn. Feb 27.

S. D. C. Atkins.

Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Dear Sir:

Mr. W. B. Mann of this place who has been instrumental in getting a number of half-breed children into the Indian Training School at Carlisle Barracks. To write you, regarding the admission of others, last fall, and your reply that on his sending certain data you would "Consider his request" has been trusted me as Chairman of Committee (W. C. T. U.) on this work. Mr. Mann having collected necessary particulars. The applicants for

for admission to Carlisle, whom
Mr. Mann recommends are
Tom Bassell 10 yrs old }
Geo " 8 " " } Mill Lake

Susie Wakefield, 14 " " }
Charlie " 12 " " } Sandy Lake
Lizzie " 12 " " }

The Mill Lake & Sandy Lake bands
are of the Chickamauga tribe, doubtless.
Agent Sheehan, of White Earth is
over them.

Of the last three I can say
only that they are well dis-
posed children, bright, and in
need of uplifting, yet there is
not the special and urgent
need in their case that ex-
ists in that of the two former.
Tom is an especially bright
boy whom no one could fail

to like. Geo. is unattractive, and would have to read this text book, but having quite a mechanical bent, shown by the manufacture of houses, boats &c, would be greatly helped by his opportunities in this line in the Industrial department at Carlisle.

The father of these boys and of Willie, Archie & Dally Bassell - now for them or more, got at Carlisle - kept a saloon there and in time sent his Indian wife Nancy to sell whisky among the Indians. She had been a good mother, and kept her house well, but she soon fell into evil ways thro' drinking

When they left her and his family.
For years all advertising has failed
to find him. Mr. Mann got the
three eldest children provided for,
Nancy, after various shameful con-
nections has been for a yr. or more
living with one of the worst saloon
keepers here who is so brutal as to
murder the name of Lykes. Their home
is some distance from the saloon
- on the outskirts of town, and is a
rendition for indians, while their little
boys are the go-betweens who furnish
Jack O'Connell's whiskey to their mother's
dusky friends. The place is often a
veritable Pandemonium, and the
worst of all is that low white men
resort thither and these little boys
mitigate & cause that most poison
all the innocence of childhood.
We of the W. C. T. U. have tried indi-
vidually to do away with these vi-
stardises of law. We had complete
evidence of this man selling
liquor to minors & indians, but
our Co. Atty. is in sympathy with

The liquor demerit, and told the
Grand Jury they could not bring
an indictment. I went to Nancy
and told her of her children coming
from Carlisle room - she needed a
good home they would not be ashamed
of. I would provide her a home
and we would all furnish her
work and help her to an honest
womanhood. She promised with tears
to go with me, but before I could
get a day to move her own things
The man came and hid her.
I tried repeatedly to see her, but
in vain. She is too far gone for
help, and we are powerless to
do anything for the boys here.

Geo. has a taste for liquor and
has been several times under
its influence - a boy of eight.
I took him home with me once and
kept him for wks. after seeing him
drunk - I hope you, Sir, never saw
so heart sickening a sight - and
he was obedient and good, but
it would take years in which to
create a new life in him, and
I could not let him be the associate
of my Court girls - except in my pres-
ence. I gave the boy a firm happy
wks - until word came from Sept.
Pratt of Carlisle, that they took no
children under 14. That the Christian
thing for us to do was to send the
boys to public school here - get them
admitted - surely the parents could
support them - altho I had told
him as to have you.

You can see there is no safety
for these boys here when the vil-
lagers Marshall looks on while
these shameful things go on, and
drinks at every bar himself. He
tells me he is ready to do all that is re-

quired if we will make Com-
plaints. So thus he says with an
oath he will throw up his office
rather than take action against
the saloon keepers who violate
the law. Agent Sheehan will
testify to the impassible obsta-
cles in the way of any attempt
at correcting violation of the law
by liquor men. Our only hope
is to get these poor strays from
the rightful realm of childish purity
so far away from the horrible
associations that it will seem
a new life to them - and prove
truly such. May the good Father
of us all aid you in making

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RECEIVED MAR 14

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This possible, & beg you
will pardon my prolixity
which only the urgency of the
case can justify.

Hoping soon for a favorable
reply & am

Very respectfully Yours
Jessie C. Knox.

Dear address

Mrs. A. J. Knox.

Atkin.

Miss