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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs,  
Rec'd FEB 24

1893

35/10

Jno. W. Archiquette  
& wife -

Onida wis

Feb 20/93

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Wants their children  
returned home from  
Carlisle School

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*To Carlisle for removal  
date*

*Encl. Carlisle Feb. 23/93*

*Ans. Mch 9. 1893*

*Hili ✓*

1893

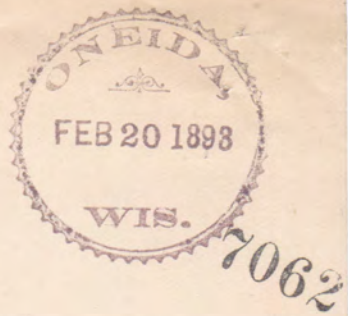
INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No. /

8097

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The Hon. J. J. Morgan,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Dear Sir:

We write you to ask that you  
order the return of our son William Archiquette  
and our daughter, Sarah Archiquette, from  
the school at Carlisle.

William was 18 years of age in January  
last, and Sarah will be 17 years old in  
July next.

They were taken from this Reservation to the  
school at Martinsburg, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of  
March 1885, where they remained for about  
three years, when they were transferred to the  
school at Carlisle, where they have been for  
the last five years.

Last summer we wrote to Capt Pratt asking  
their return, and received in answer a letter  
which showed indifference to our feelings and



rights as Parents, and assumed to take the direction of our children's future out of our hands.

The children were surrendered to the Govt with the pledge that they should be returned to us in three years. That pledge has not been kept, as they have never been allowed to return home.

We have respectfully asked for their return, and have been told that if, after a certain time, the children wished to return home, they might do so, but that they had better remain where they were.

Now, Mr Commissioners, we respectfully insist upon our rights as the parents of these children. We are entitled to some recognition. We have our own views as to the future of our children. We will excuse Capt Pratt from the responsibility. We are averse to our children forming attachments and marrying out of their own tribes. We are the persons who are by every right of nature and civil law entitled to make choice for our children, until they become of legal age. Their choice, until that time, is subordinate to ours.

It is generally conceded that a man  
has some rights which are entitled to respect,  
Among these are his rights in his wife and children  
But it may be that these rights are not to be  
regarded as extending to Indians. Such seems  
the opinion of Capt Pratt, and it is against  
his direction in that matter that we appeal  
to you and ask that our rights be respected  
and our children returned to us. After an absence  
of ~~eight~~ years from us, their affections may have  
been weaned from us to a certain extent, so  
that they may not be anxious to return to us.

But the option is not yet theirs. Had we  
known before, as we know now, the policy of  
Capt Pratt in regard to the return of Indian  
children to their homes, we would never consented  
to the surrender of our children into his hands.  
We consider ourselves competent to judge and  
direct as to the future of our children during  
their minority, and ask as our right, that you  
order them returned to us.

Very Respectfully, John Washington <sup>his</sup> Archiquette  
Mary <sup>her</sup> Archiquette  
Witness, S. S. Burleson