

18815

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd APR 23

1898

17842-98

5/7/11

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. April 21st 1898.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Regarding return
home of Margaret
Provost, enclosing
two letters from Miss
Burgess, and return-
ing letter of Mrs.
Julia Provost, all
on same subject.

3 Enclosures

Carlisle Apr 28
Julia Provost 1898

[Handwritten signature] ✓ ♂

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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., April 21st, 1898.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 19th marked "Education, 17,842", I have to respectfully advise you that under date of August 7th last I wrote you in regard to Julia Provost, and here with enclose copies of two letters in regard to the same from my Miss Burgess, Supt. of Printing, who brought Marguerita Provost to this school. The first letter, dated August 6th, was sent in my letter to your Office dated August 7th, 1897, and the other, dated today, was written after reading your and Mrs. Provost's letters. I have also just written the father at Pine Ridge in reference to this same matter. The two girls are yielding to discipline, and carrying themselves so much better than formerly, that it would be a disaster to make a break against their good intentions by sending them home. No students have been accepted at this school for a period of three years for more than a dozen years past. Health and graduation are the only reasons which induce us to send them home before their five years' term has expired. We never make any arrangements or agreements that would conflict with our curriculum, of which the Outing is such a valuable part. No such promise as Mrs. Provost states was ever made to her. The Carlisle students regard the Outing as one of their highest privileges, and are generally very anxious to have their full share. It is beneficial to them in every way.

Mrs. Provost's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated) Mc

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Indian Office,

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Enclosure

Copy of Letter from Miss Dues
regarding Mrs.
Julia Provost

Department of the Interior,

(COPY)

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., August 6th, 1897.

Capt. R.H. Pratt,
Superintendent.

Sir:

I have to say in relation to a letter dated Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, Aug. 4, 1897, in which it is stated that "it was positively agreed upon, between herself (Mrs. Julia Provost, and Omaha Indian woman) and your collecting agent Miss Burgess, that her child was to be returned to her at the end of three years," that no such promise was ever made by me. To have done so I should have violated my instructions, and in no instance, have I made such a promise to an Indian. I remember the woman well. She was a person of more than ordinary Indian intelligence, but I had been warned against her by several who pronounced her a mischief-maker, hence, I chose my words with special care. She brought her daughter in person to the station at Bancroft, Neb., where a very friendly talk was entered into, but I have no recollection of a word being said in regard to her child's returning. She expressed a strong desire that Margaret should graduate, and hoped to be able to attend those Commencement exercises. I gave her a cordial invitation on your behalf to do so. If anything was said about her daughter's return, it was to the effect that if she graduated before the expiration of five years she would be allowed to return. This is what I said to all who inquired about time.

The daughter was offered unsolicited by me, although I did

Capt. R.H. Pratt.

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drive to the home when I heard there were girls there who wished to go to Carlisle. The house is a very good looking residence from the outside. I did not go in. Since the daughter entered Carlisle, she has told me that her father and mother have been living at Pine Ridge Agency, S. Dak., that her father, Mr. Provost, is a Sioux, and claims rights on that reservation, and while there he rented his Omaha home. I understand they lead quite a wandering life.

Very respectfully,

(signed) (Miss) M. Burgess,

Supt. of Printing.

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Indian Office,

Incl. No.

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Enclosure.

Letter of Miss
Burgess regarding
return home of
Margaret Provost.

Indian Industrial School,
Carlisle, Pa.

April 2nd 1898

Capt. R. H. Pratt
Supr.

Dear Sir:

In reply to a letter dated Albany, N.Y., April 7, '98 to Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, W. A. Jones, Washington, D.C., and signed Juliet Provost, in which she says regarding her girls Louise and Marguerita that "We made Miss Burgess understood that we do not wish to have our girls to go to the country farms," and that I promised that they "should never go out to the country farms, etc," and that they were to remain but three years at Carlisle, I have to say, that a letter addressed to you August 6, '97, answering similar charges from the same Mrs. Provost covers the point and explains fully regarding the time for which Marguerita came. I have further to state that I did not

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bring Louise Provost to Carlisle and never exchanged words with Mrs. Provost about her. Mrs. Provost understands English perfectly well, and there was no misunderstanding at the time she placed Marguerite in my charge, about the time she should remain.

If she said anything about not wishing Marguerite to go out in the country, I do not remember it, but I'm sure there was no special feeling regarding that point, or I should now remember it.

I do know that I never promised any Indian parent that his or her child should not go out into the country.

Last week Marguerite Provost came to my room to bid me good-bye previous to her going out for this summer. She seemed delighted to go, and said that she meant to do better

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than she had done before. She had been a troublesome girl in many ways, and now that she was to be given another chance she meant to do her best, and make of herself a good woman. She was glad that her new home would separate her from the other girls. She wanted to stay at Carlisle until she graduated, etc. We talked of her home conditions, of her mother and father, brothers and sisters. She is happy and anxious to finish the Carlisle course.

Respectfully,
(Miss) M. Burgess

Suph. of Printing