

44549

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Re. SEP 19

1899

57/60

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Sept. 18, 1899.

Pratt, R. H.,

Major
~~Captain~~ 10th Cav'y, Supt.

"Education - 40454-99"

Francisco children of
Indian - negro parentage.

(3) Enclosures

To Brownlow Oct 5-99

E. H. Lee ✓

6577
44579

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Penna., September 18, 1899.

To the Honorable,
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of August 26th, marked "Education-40454-1899," advising that the Honorable W. P. Brownlow, of Tennessee, had applied to have enrolled in this School four Indian children, named Francisco, and directing that I correspond with Mr. Brownlow, I have the honor to enclose my letter to Mr. Brownlow, dated August 29th, and his reply, dated September 4th and also a letter from Samuel H. Mitchell of Knoxville, dated the 2nd of September.

Before proceeding to carry out your instructions to bring these children to Carlisle, I think it best to ask your further consideration of the following views. It appears to me to be an attempt on the part of the local authorities to saddle some of its dependents upon the United States, and without sufficient reason. The Indian and colored woman are, or were, citizens of the locality in which they lived, for they were "legally married" there, by which act Tennessee accepted all the consequences. The children inherited that citizenship. Under the custom regulating these matters, the children follow the mother. All people of mixed blood (white and negro) are classed as negroes, though they are thirty-one or more parts white and one or less part negro.

Such mixture of white with negro blood comes universally from white fathers and negro mothers. All mixed blood, white and Indian, is classed as Indian, though the Indian blood be quite as weak and diluted as above, and all such mixtures are wholly through white fathers and Indian mothers. These young people therefore do not belong to the Indian, but to the colored race. I submit that when we are attempting to disintegrate the tribes and to make their individuals a part of our local communities, it is in direct opposition to that policy to be seeking out people of Indian blood, already settled in our communities, and congregate them in Indian schools, or otherwise, under the special care of the general Government. And before entering upon such a policy, we ought to consider well its import,--the thousands to follow.

With these expressions in regard to the matter, awaiting your instructions, and requesting the return of Mr. Brownlow's letter with its enclosure from Mr. Mitchell, I am,

Very respectfully,



Major 10th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated.
(M)

44549

Indian Office.

Incl. No.

2

1899

Genl. R. H. Pratt

Supt. Indian School,

WASHINGTON
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(copy)

Jonesboro, Tenn.

Sept. 4, 1899.

Dear Major:

In reply to your letter, I herewith hand you a safe -
 ment in regard to the children of William Prandoo, universally
 known as "Bill Indian". I was raised at Rogersville, and know
 Col. John Walker who, prior to the war of the rebellion, was an
 agent of the Government for the Sparta tribe of Indians. Bill
 and these children are the result of that marriage.
 Indian married a respectable colored woman at Rogersville, Tennessee,
 and these children are the result of that marriage.
 I have understood that the Rev. Kerley H. Cline of Rogersville
 Tennessee would accompany these children to Carlisle Pa., provided
 your obedient servant.

(Signed) W. P. Brownlow.

M.G.

(copy)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON.

Jonesboro, Tenn.,

Sept. 4, 1899.

Maj. R. H. Pratt,
Supt. Indian School,
Carlyle, Pa.

Dear Major:

In reply to your letter, I herewith hand you a statement in regard to the children of William Francisco, universally known as "Bill Indian." I was raised at Rogersville, and knew Col. John Walker who, prior to the war of the rebellion, was an agent of this government for the apache tribe of indians. Bill Indian married a reputable colored woman at Rogersville, Tennessee, and these children are the result of that marriage.

I have understood that the Rev. Wesley M. Cline of Rogersville Tennessee would accompany these children to Carlyle Pa., provided the government would pay his actual traveling expenses.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. P. Brownlow.

M.C.

44549

Indian Office.

Incl. No.

3

1899

Dear Sir:

Hon. W. P. Browder,

Chenopora, Tennessee.

Chenopora, Tenn. August 20, 1899.

Hon. W. P. Browder, of the inf. enclosing letter of Major H. H. Pratt,

to Knoxville, Tenn. Sept. 10, 1899.

to Knoxville.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Saml. H. H. H. H.

(copy)

(copy)

(copy)

(copy)

Knoxville, Tenn. Sept. 2nd, 1899.

Hon. W. P. Brownlow,
Jonesboro, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 1st enclosing letter of Major R. H. Pratt, received. The children mentioned in said letter are the offspring of Wm. Francisco, commonly called "Bill Indian," a member of the Apache tribe, and a negro woman to whom he was legally married under the laws of the state of Tennessee. The children are in excellent health for boys and girls of their age; bid fair to make stout healthy men and women. They have been taught in the public schools of Hawkins County, and some of them have probably mastered the primary branches. They also are well trained and bear good reputation. The railroad point from which they would start is Rogersville.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Sam'l H. Mitchell.

(Copy)

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Panna., August 29, 1899.

Hon. W.P. Brownlow,

Jonesboro, Tenn.

Dear Sir:--

(M)
The Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs advises that there are four Indian children aged between seven and sixteen, belonging to the Apache tribe, whom you desire enrolled in this School, and directs me to correspond with you in reference thereto.

Before making the final arrangements will you kindly advise me as to whether both parents are full blooded Indians, and of what tribe or tribes? And I would like also to know the condition of health the children are in and what their life has been so as to be informed as to just what we are undertaking.

My experience in taking into the School the children of unsettled Indians, who go up and down the country, has been such as to make it important that I have a full understanding on these lines.

Please advise me also as to the railroad point from which they would start.

On receipt of your letter, I will give the matter further and final consideration.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt

Dictated. Major 10th Cavalry, Supt.

(M)