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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. FEB 11

1902

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Feb. 6 1902.

Pratt, R. M.

Lt. Col. 16th Cav'y, Supt.

In regard to children of
Mrs. Sarah Davis of Free Soil,
Mich.

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 6, 1902.

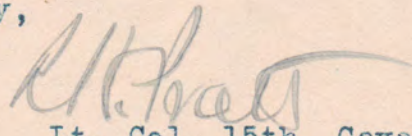
To The Honorable,
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

Referring to your letter of Jan. 7th marked "Education 329 1902" in regard to the children of Mrs. Eliza Davis, of Free Soil, Michigan, which letter was inadvertently side tracked by pressure of other matters, I have to advise you that the children in question Sarah Davis, aged 17 and Tonkin Davis, aged 15, entered this school Nov. 25th, 1899, for a term of five years, and that so far as I can learn no promise was made to their mother that they would be returned to her on demand before they had completed the five year period. Mrs. Davis has repeatedly written me threatening letters on the subject, but I have held on to the children because they were not entitled to go home by reason of expiration of term, and there was no good reason to return them. They are not very desirable children on account of dishonest tendencies, but these I hope to overcome before it is time to send them back to their mother. They are in good health and have ability. I have written this to Mrs. Davis repeatedly.

Enclosed is copy of my answer to her in compliance with your letter. Her letter to you is also herewith.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

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Indian Industrial School,

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Pratt, E. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.

Copy of letter dated Feb. 6th
to Mrs. Eliza Davis.

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 6, 1902.

Mrs. Eliza Davis,
Free Soil, Mich.

Dear Mrs. Davis :-

I am directed by the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs to make answer to your letter to him in regard to the return of your two children.

As repeatedly stated to you, no agent of this school is authorized to accept children for a shorter period than five years. Elmer Simon who brought your children to Carlisle, informs me that he made you no such promise as you state. Both Sarah and Tonkin are in good health and are able to learn better now than they will be later; if deprived of their privileges now they will never be of material assistance to you, while if allowed to continue their schooling they will be capable of supporting you when older. Just now they need training not only in books, but in industry and good morals. Tonkin has been my orderly for some time. I see him every day. Sarah has also come under my special observation in a way to make me anxious for her future. They need the best of attention in order to start them out of old habits of petty stealing to which they are both addicted, into right lines.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) R. H. PRATT.

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

C O P Y .