

9201

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. FEB 11

1902

✓ 6783-02

67/6³

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Feb. 4 1902

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Returning petition signed
by Hildebrandt, Hall & oth-
ers, complaining of flood dam-
age caused by dam.

Explaining same & enclosing
copy of letter to A. Z. Metzger, Secy.
Town Council.

2 enc ✓

E. J. [Signature]

9201

Department of the Interior,

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 4, 1902.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

Replying to your letter of the 1st marked "Education 67083" enclosing petition signed by Hildebrandt, Hall, Parker, and others, complaining that I have erected a dam, etc. on land leased for maintaining a skating pond for the school, which dam interferes with the natural water course of the Letort Spring, I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of my answer to the Secretary of the Town Council, which covers the facts and our position in the premises.

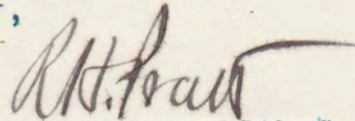
Hildebrandt is a member of the town council and the originator of the petition. Neither he nor Hall, Mrs. Hall, Parker, Egulf, Spahr Minnich, Glass nor Welsh have any property affected by the creek overflow. Adams, Groover, and Bender are the only ones whose property has been affected. It would seem important that the particular people suffering damage to their property should be the parties to the complaint. The fact that so few out of the dozens affected are signers of the petition indicates that the majority understand very well that the trouble does not lie at the Indian school.

This is not an incident peculiar to recent years, nor was the overflow which did the damage by filling cellars, flooding gardens, etc. caused by our dam. The facts are that the town has put in three low arched stone bridges across the spring referred to and has not allowed sufficient room for the floods to pass. We are

amply below, and the use we make of the water for a skating pond is not in any sense an interference with anybody's rights. There will be no suit brought in consequence of anything we have done in this matter and I feel very sure the council will not care to join me in an expert official investigation as suggested in my letter. Since my answer to the secretary of the council, I have had a full talk with the president, who after finding I was not to be made the scape goat admitted that the fault lies with the town authorities and alleged that he had already urged the council to make an appropriation of thousands of dollars to put in additional arches at the bridges to accommodate flood conditions, and that the matter was now in the hands of a committee of the council who would report this week.

The whole matter can safely be left in my hands.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

9201

Indian Office

1902

Incl. No. /

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Feb 4. 19 02.

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Copy of letter dated Jan. 30.
to A. Z. Wetzel. Secy. Corporation
of Borough of Carlisle. in reference
to skating pond.

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 30, 1902.

Mr. A. Z. Wetzel, Secy.,
Corporation of the Borough of Carlisle,
Carlisle, Pa.

Dear Sir :-

I am surprised at the position the Town Council takes in regard to our skating pond , claiming that it contributes in any sense to the flooding of the residences above along the Letort Spring. It does not do that; 1st, Because the channel of the Letort Spring alongside this pond is as capacious as the channel of the same thru the town of Carlisle, and any water that can pass thru the channel in the town can pass thru the channel at this point. 2nd, There is no time either at its ordinary stage or flood when the current in the channel at Pratt Street is not in full flow. 3rd, The stream at this point is too far below to account in any manner for the flooding of the town above North Street under any circumstances. 4th, and most important of all is the fact that the water level of the pond which is created by the dam is always, whether at flood or ordinary times, below the water level in the channel of the Letort by the side of the pond, and the dam contrivance is so arranged as to keep it below. The water at this time when there is no flood is passing over the dam. There is a waste for the Letort just below our dam and also at the mill, either or both of which relieve any backing of water.

Should I elect to fill up the land covered by the pond to above the possibility of flooding, in order to use it for building or gardening purposes, would I not have the right to do that ? If I choose

-2- Mr. Wetzel.

the rather, and I do, to occupy the land a part of the year for a skating pond, is my right any the less ?

I am ready of course for any action to test these premises and believe that when such scientific consideration is given as would then be necessary, it will be found that the scape-goat for the difficulty is not corralled at the Indian School.

Allow me in closing to suggest that if there is sufficient dredging of the Letort through the town to accommodate floods, we will take care of the water when it reaches us.

Inasmuch as the action of the Town Council is made public in the papers, I take the liberty of sending copies of this letter to the same papers for the same publicity, at the same time that this letter goes to you.

Yours truly,

(Signed) R. H. PRATT.

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

C O P Y .

6783

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JAN 31

1902

9201

Indian Office
Incl. No. 2

1902

6/24
J. A. Holdebrandt
- et al -
Charles Pe.
Jay 11/02

Petition for
removal of a
dam constructed
by Supt Pratt

Enc. Carlisle Feb. 1/02
Filed, incl - 9201/02

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Rufley & Brinton
attys.

Carlisle, Pa., January 28, 1902.

To the Indian Department,

Washington, D. C.

We, the undersigned petitioners, respectfully represent, that Lt. Col. R. H. Pratt, Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, in 1899 erected a dam at Carlisle Indian School on leased ground for the purpose of maintaining a skating pond for said School. The said dam is constructed on the old natural ^{the} ~~course~~ ^{course} of the Letort Spring, a Spring that has its rise on the south side of Carlisle, and flowing into the Conodoguinet Creek at a point near Middlesex, Cumberland County.

That the said dam and flood gates at the time of ordinary rains has caused back water on the stream aforesaid, occasioning great damage to the property owners residing along said stream and all within the Borough of Carlisle. That the first ~~high water~~ ^{high water} causing damage to property does not ante-date the construction of said dam.

The Borough Council of Carlisle has been petitioned by 112 residents of the Borough of Carlisle to request the said Lt. Col. R. H. Pratt to remove the said dam, and the said Council have taken action on the petition and have formally notified the said Lt. Col. R. H. Pratt Supt. of the Carlisle Indian School to remove said dam and flood gates.

The damage occasioned by the overflow of said stream as aforesaid set forth has amounted to thousands of dollars to your petitioners, and we take this course to call attention to the proper Department at Washington before consulting of Council and the institution of suits, believing that your Department will investigate the same and request the said Lt. Col. R. H. Pratt to remove the said nuisance.

J. A. Hildebrandt
Mrs Susan Hall
Wm Hall
Leonard Parker

Marmar Egolf
John Welsh
William Adams
Wm Sprahr

(over)

Oliver Wendell
Frank A. Bunker
Gla Groover
John L. Glass