

28694

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAY 14

1902

✓ 27675-02.

68/20

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. May 13 1902

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Replies to letter of
May 12th, relative to
children of Mr. Griffin

1 inc

To Fitzgerald May 19/02

File ✓

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., May 13, 1902.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Replying to yours of the 12th instant marked "Education 27675" enclosing a letter from E. Fitzgerald, Attorney, of Loomis , Washington, relative to the children of Mr. Griffin, of that town, I have to respectfully advise you that Ida Griffin has just been in my office and states that it is her desire to remain here and graduate, which she will do in February next; that she does not consider that her father has any claim upon her as she is soon twenty years of age; that he has not written to her since a year ago last month, at least she has not received any letter from him during that time although she has written him regularly every month as required by the school regulations; and that she has not said to him in any letter that she wished to go home. She further states that she is engaged to Mr. Nori, a clerk in my office, and that their arrangement is that she shall graduate and then consider whether she will take more education or not; that two months ago her younger sister at home wrote her brother here that she and her father were going to Alaska.

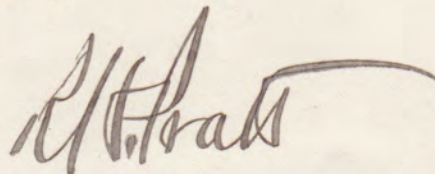
Neither Miss Griffin nor her brother were entitled to go home until last year. Both being then juniors and soon to graduate I had no hesitation in advising them to remain at the school and finish their course. If there was a selfish purpose in it it was selfish for their interests only. After sending his children here Mr. Grif-

fin began two years after to demand the return of his daughter and has been somewhat persistent in the matter ever since. She has been equally persistent in her expression to me of her desire to remain here and complete the course. The father's dissatisfaction arose apparently after he had requested us to take another daughter twelve years of age whom I agreed to accept if she could pass the physical examination, but who had to be rejected because of her physical disability.

Tommy Griffin is only seventeen years of age and amenable of course to his father's control, but it does seem as though he ought to be allowed to complete his course when the time required to do it is so short and he wants to stay and do that. He can return to his father immediately after graduation in February next. As the young lady has the years of discretion it would seem that no legal obstacle can be placed in her way. Incidentally, I may say that Mr. Nori is as useful, as competent and as worthy in his position as any young man I have had in service here in that place through all the years, and has all the elements of honorable and capable manhood entirely sufficient to warrant his assumption of the relation he and Miss Griffin contemplate.

I return herewith Mr. Fitzgerald's letter.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R. H. Pratt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

27675

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAY 10

1902

28694

Indian Office

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1902

Incl. No.

68/10

E. Fitzgerald,
Loomis, Wash.

May 3, 1902

Rel. to the request of
Mr. Griffin for the
return of his children
from Carlisle School.Mr. Carlisle May 12/02
Filed with 28694/02

Very respectfully yours,

B. J. Fitzgerald

E. FITZGERALD,
ATTORNEY.

Loomis, Wash., May 3rd. 1902.

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Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th, Ult. received with thanks. In reply to same I am led to believe that from selfish or private motives the persons in authority at the Indian School at Carlisle are seeking to keep the Griffin children there against the wishes of both the children and their Father. Mr. Griffin has never been away from home more than a few days at a time for many years and has no intention of going to Alaska. He says that all the letters received from both his children express their desire to come home but that the authorities at the School undoubtedly use undue influence to keep them there. Mr. Griffin is anxious to send them to the Pullman College one of our State institutions and says as they have more than completed the five years which the contract called for when they entered the Carlisle School he insists upon their return at once.

Very respectfully yours,

E. Fitzgerald