

54920

OFFICE OF
Indi Affairs
Rec. AUG 13

1904

18/737

✓ 51745-04
✓ 53932 "

Indian Indus. School,
Carlisle, Pa., Aug. 12, 1904.

Mercer, W. A. Capt. & Supt.

Reports that Maggie Venne is to
come in to the school to go home.
Returns correspondence.

5 mi

To McCumber 8/20/04

File ✓
J. H. Miller

2

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Aug. 12, 1904.

To The honorable,

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

Sir :

Replying to Office letters "Education 51754 - 1904" and "53932 - 1904", dated respectively August 2nd and 10th, I have the honor to state that a ticket has been sent to Maggie Venne to come in to the school preparatory to going home. There is no question but that she will choose to go, as a great majority of students would if constantly importuned by their parents.

Senator McCumber's letter is herewith returned; also five enclosures sent with Office letter "Education 51745 - 1904" dated Aug. 2nd.

Very respectfully,

Edgar A. Allen
Acting Supt.

6 Enclosures.

78 207 53932	OFFICE OF Indian Affairs Rec AUG 9	1904
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54920	Indian Office, Incl. No. 1	1904
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Hon. P. J. M. Cumber,
Wahpeton, N. D.
Aug. 5, 1904.
Request the return
of Maggie Venue,
Carlisle Student, to
her parents.

Encl. Carlisle 9/10/04
To M Cumber " "
Filed with - 54920/04

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SPECIAL

Special

FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

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REED SMOOT, UTAH.

ORMSBY MC HARG, CLERK.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
WASHINGTON.

Wahpeton, North Dakota, August 5, 1904.

Hon. A. C. Tonner,

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Tonner:

I am just in receipt of your courteous favor of the 2nd instant in reference to the case of Maggie Venne. I have no doubt but the facts concerning her desire to go out into the country are correct and there may be a question about whether any undue influence was exercised in inducing her to go to the Carlisle Indian school, nevertheless it seems to me very certain, from her letters and from the letters I have received from others that her desire to get back home is intensely in earnest. There is no complaint on the part of herself or friends so far as the wages she is receiving is concerned. Her own letter however seems to differ from that of her employer as to her health being good since she has been at that place, and on account of the condition of her father and mother, of which I have no doubt, and on account of her most earnest appeals to be allowed to return to them I candidly believe that it would be better to allow the young girl to return home. I make this suggestion not only for what I believe to be for her own interest but also for what I believe to be for the best interest of the

school itself. Our Indians up here ought not to feel that sending their children to school means an enforced separation against the will of both parent and child. One case of this kind, as you undoubtedly know yourself, would hinder very much in securing other Indian students from any given locality.

Like yourself I am a strong believer in educating these young girls and in using all reasonable persuasion in securing their attendance at some proper place for the education of our Indian wards. But considering the age of this girl, now I believe in her twenty-third year, her own feelings in the matter and that of her friends at home, I am thoroughly of the opinion that it is just as well for you to allow her to return home, and that it in the end will be far better for the service.

I sincerely hope therefore that the request to allow her to return under the circumstances will be allowed.

Again thanking you for your full explanation and courtesy in the matter I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

P. J. McCumber

51745	OFFICE OF	1904
	Indian Affairs Rec AUG 1	

54920	Indian Office,	1904
	Incl. No. 2	

789/85

Hon P. J. McCumber
Wahpeton
In date

July 27-04

Rel to case of
Maggie Verne.

3 mi.

Encl. Carlisle 8/2/04

To McCumber " "

Filed encl 54-920/04

[Handwritten flourish]

[Handwritten flourish]

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ORMSBY MC HARG, CLERK.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
WASHINGTON.

Wahpeton, North Dakota, July 27, 1904.

Hon. A. C. Tonner,

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Tonner;

Assuming that the commissioner has not yet returned from his western trip I again address you personally in the Maggie Venne matter. My last lett on this subject, June 28, requesting an investigation of the matter has as yet received no response. I am aware that it takes some time toinvestigate a matter of this kind and therefore call your attention to the affair again, feeling as I do that the conditions are such that immediate action should be taken. I have not brought the matter to the attention of the Secretary knowing that I could depend upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs giving it that consideration which it deserves. I here enclose you copy of two letters from Miss Venne and one from Dr. Graham. These pathetic appeals on the part of an Indian girl, seemingly held a prisoner against her will, impresses me and I cannot but feel that there is an earnestness throughout all her correspondence. I ask you to read them personally and would suggest that if the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School has not yet given a reason why this girl be held, not in a school but in a private family, he be requested

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ORMSBY MC HARG, CLERK.

UNITED STATES SENATE,

COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,

WASHINGTON.

#2.A.C.T.

to immediately inform the Bureau why she is held. The letter of Dr. Graham which I enclose is mild compared with some which I have received and which I have not submitted to the department.

I am quite certain that this matter will become public in a very short time and an explanation demanded through the press unless some satisfactory reason can be given for this very singular detention. I earnestly solicit a speedy reply to this letter.

Very truly yours,

P. J. McCumber

51745

Indian Office,
Incl. No. 3

1904

54920

Indian Office,
Incl. No. 5

1904

COPY.

Walhalla, North Dakota, July 25, 1904.

Hon. P: J. McCumber

Wahpeton, N. D.

Dear Sir:

Your last letter to me in regard to Miss Venne had the right ring about it and I immediately forwarded it to her. I enclose two more letters from her and ask if this most damnable persecution cannot be immediately stopped and this girl sent home before it is too late. It does seem to me mighty small business for a great government to be acting the part it is in this matter. I am very indignant and angry that a poor defenseless Indian (?) girl is so held by a government institution to all intents and purposes a prisoner without a chance to be heard on her own behalf. It is most scandalous and hellish work and should be righted at the very earliest possible moment.

Please pardon me and kindly return the letters as if you fail me in this matter I am prepared to raise a storm through the press from North Dakota to Staten Island that will make interesting reading for some of them.

I am sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. J. Graham, M. D.

51745

Indian Office,
Incl. No. 2

1904

54920

Indian Office,
Incl. No. 4

1904

COPY.

Mt. Holly, N. Jersey, July 21, 04.

Dear Dr. Graham:

I again drop you a few lines today in reply to your last letter. No doubt you have already received my last letter in which I was explaining to you my poor health. Well I did take the bed after all. I fell very sick last Saturday afternoon. They had to send for the doctor, but in a very short time while Dr. Melcher was here in the house just while I was in great distress and suffering. I just got out of bed yesterday which I wished many moments of my greatest pains that the dear Lord would have taken me from the wide world, but here I am gaining health again with Dr. Melchers attention. He said I would not be able to work for a week yet. If I am not home within two months from now Doctor the Lord knows where I will be and go, but I hope that such a thing won't have to happen just on account of some false person and stories. I'll do anything for the sake of my father and mother. I will close now as I am very weak Doctor and will not attempt to write more.

Good bye, hoping to hear good news from you and Senator and home also in a very short time.

From yours truly,

(Signed) Maggie Venne.

51745	Indian Office, Incl. No. 1	1904
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54920	Indian Office, Incl. No. 3	1904
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08030

COPY.

Mt. Holley, New Jersey, July 16, 1904.

Dear Doctor Graham:

I will now take up a little of my time to answer your welcome letter of June 30th, '04, and I was indeed delighted to hear from you once more and also glad to hear that Senator McCumber had taken some interest in my case but again my feelings and mind are growing very weak. I am tired and discouraged of waiting and worrying this way. I scarcely can wait any longer. I received a letter from papa and mother last week and to my surprise I read in this letter that they were in very poor conditions. Papa says that he is able to get around a little, but mother was still sick in bed, not even able to milk cows. How pitiful they must look. Doctor, Oh! if I were only there to wait on them how happy they would feel, and I myself would feel happy to be able to take care of them. There is not a moment of the days past but what I think of them two poor old folks all at one. May the dear Lord take me home once more very soon if not alive may it be dead anyhow. I am discouraged and sick over this trouble. Had my cousin and Supt. Allen left me where I was two years ago I would still be happy with my dear father and mother. I am not very well lately. I am under Dr. Melcher's care I have been up to see him four or five times now since I came here in Mt. Holly. I don't know whether I'll recover from this sickness or not. I am not sick in bed but another person using my place and condition would feel like staying in bed, but worryness is what is finishing me up in this world. May the Lord

help me and take me in and to a better home.

I will end my letter Dr. Graham as my eyes are very weak and I can't read or write very long. Please don't let father or mother know about me being sick because they will feel worse themselves.

I am ever your friend,

(Signed) Maggie Venne.

In care of Mrs. Geo Heyer. Please answer soon.