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Indian Office,  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. APR. 2

1907

✓27164-07

Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,  
March 23, 1907.

Maj. W. A. Mercer,  
Supt.

Reports on letter of Hon. Frederick Landis, M.C., relative to proposed discharge of Willis Peconga, Miama pupil from Marion, Ind.

3 incls.

FILE

To Supt. 4/8/07  
" Landis "

E

File

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Carlisle, Pa.,

March 23, 1907. *J.C.M.*

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your Office letter (Education 27164/07) dated the 21st instant from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing letter from Hon. Frederick Landis, House of Representatives, and one addressed to him by Mrs. Thomas Pedonga, of Marion, Indiana, relative to permitting their son Willis to return home from the Carlisle Indian School. Complying with instructions to submit a report and recommendation in regard to this case, you are advised that this young man was enrolled as a pupil from Marion, Indiana, on August 7, 1905, his age being given as 17 years. On June 29, 1906, he deserted from the school and soon thereafter we learned that he had arrived at his home. Last October when our instructor in harnessmaking, Mr. Zeigler, was detailed to the Chicago Warehouse by your Office in connection with the inspection of Government supplies, we took advantage of the opportunity to have him stop at Marion and return this young man. Though we had a number of letters from his parents in regard to the boy's advancement in school work and also in regard to his conduct, we have not been able to see our way clear to releasing the boy, as was urgently requested by the parents, up to this time. His conduct as a pupil here has been far from exemplary, especially



in the matter of procuring intoxicating liquor, he being one of the very few young men who have given us trouble in this respect. Since his return last fall he has had liquor at least twice and in the latter part of December he had to be severely disciplined. Since that time several letters have been received from and written to Mr. Peconga about releasing the boy. Mr. Peconga was told that as a matter of discipline we could not discharge him at the time as requested, but that if his conduct was what it should be that we would consent to his release soon after our commencement exercises. This decision was made, not because we felt that the parents or the young man had any just ground for urging his release from the school, but because we felt that the welfare of the school would be thereby promoted on account of the young man's example. It is not true that the young man cannot make further progress here, as he is only in our junior class and could put in another year before he would complete our course. If properly disposed he could also receive valuable training in one or more of the trades.

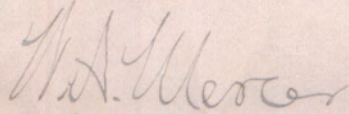
However, we propose, with your approval, to discharge the young man and send him home immediately after commencement. Bearing upon this entire matter and as showing that there was a complete understanding between the father and the school in regard to this whole matter, and that there was no good reason for his appealing to his member of Congress in the premises, there is inclosed herewith a copy of a letter just received this morning from Mr. Peconga. Reply to the same has been made today, stating that



we will discharge Willis early in April.

The letters inclosed with your communication are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. A. Mercer".

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-S



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27164

OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. MAR 19

1907

1907

Indian Office,

APR 23

Rec. No.

31900

Hon. Edmund Landis.  
H. R.

Transmits letter from  
Mrs. Thomas Piconga, re.  
to release of her son  
Willis from Carlisle School,  
pauc

Encl. Carlisle 3/21/07  
To Landis 4/8 "

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D.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON.

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

My Dear Sir:

Kindly consider the inclosed letter and place the matter  
according to your best judgment. I thank you.

Very truly yours,

*Frederick Lander*



31900

Indian Office,

APR 2

Incl. No.

1907

COPY

Marion, Ind.

March the 20th, 1907,

I will now write you a few lines. I hope Willis has been  
the rules at school. I am anxious to get him in higher  
as soon as possible. You said that he might come home after

COPY

March the 20th, 1907,

Marion, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I will now write you a few lines. I hope Willis has been obeying the rules at school. I am anxious to get him in higher school as soon as possible. You said that he might come home after the commencement which will take place April 3d and 4th. Thanking you very much for favoring me and for Willis interest. And the railroad fare which I promised you I would pay you send me the amount and I will send it to you, and tell me how you want it sent. Please tell me what date you will let him come home after Commencement so I will know when to send his ticket. Now Major don't put it off no longer than possible, and oblige.

Yours truly,

Thomas Peconga

1007 N. Bronson St.,

Marion, Ind.



27164

MAR 19  
Incl. No.

1907

31900

Indian Office,

APR 20

Incl. No.

1907

Marion Ind

Dec 20. 1906

Honorable Fred Landis

I write you concerning  
my son Willis Deonga  
he is in Carlisle Pa  
in a Government school  
it is a Indian school for  
our race of people. we  
live in Marion Ind  
Willis Graduated the  
common branches in the  
city school of Marion  
when he was 15 years old  
he will be 20 years old  
this coming summer  
he wanted to go there to  
school and his father signed



the application papers  
for 5 years. Thinking it  
was a higher grade school  
But we find that it don't  
go any higher than the  
common grades so he  
is just simply  
reviewing what he had  
went through and it is  
just a waste of Time  
He has went one term  
and he ran off and come  
home in July so they  
sent for him in Oct and  
took him back <sup>to</sup> the school  
He is so dissatisfied and  
says he will not stay there

so we want to know  
if you can do any thing  
for us we don't want  
him to run off again  
but we want him  
released honorably so  
he can come home to stay  
Willis has always been  
a good boy and a great  
boy for home  
he wants to go to Normal  
college here in Marion  
and be at home as soon  
as he can get released  
so I appeal and beg of  
you to do all in your  
power for his release



Willis is a bright and  
industrious boy and  
capable of making his  
~~own~~ living and why  
should he be compelled  
to stay there when he is  
not doing any good  
- respectfully

Mrs Thomas Peenga  
1007 North Branson st  
Marion Ind

Let me hear from you  
as soon as possible