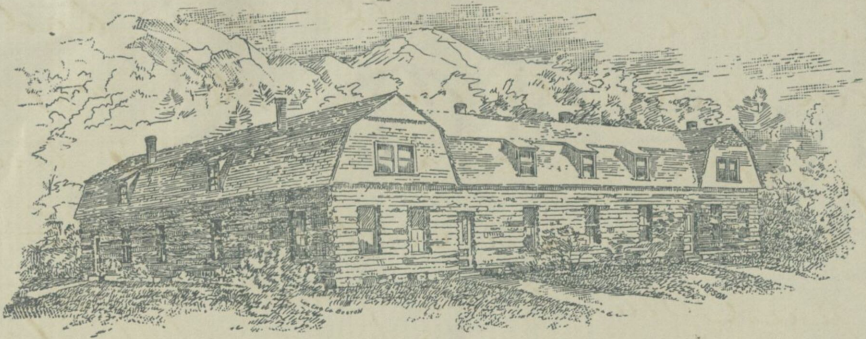


Montana Industrial School

FOR INDIANS.



REV. H. F. BOND, SUPT.

P.O. ADDRESS, BLAKELEY, MONTANA.

Ramona Ranch, Sept. 9 1887

Capt. R. H. Pratt

Dear Sir,

Genl Marshall has permitted me to see your letter to him of July 28th. You say I have not written to you in regard either to Geo. Heill or Flora Wellknown. That is true - but I have written quite fully to Genl Marshall, and as he made the arrangements with you for those employees, I left it for him to write what he thought best to you. All I have known of the arrangements was the wages agreed upon to be paid them. I never heard

about, their going back to Carlisle in case they did not give satisfaction. Geo. Keile tells me he never had any such understanding. He was here day before yesterday to get his trunk and to effect a settlement with me. I paid him to the fourth of July, the time of termination of his leave of absence. He has had a good deal to do here and so have all the rest of us. It has not been possible to have it otherwise. Sometimes interpreting was doubtless very disagreeable to him and that could not be otherwise.

When I forbade Indians to Camp near the house and to come too frequently into the house, he does not seem to have felt himself to be only my spokesman. It was, of course hard for him to say what I required of him, and indeed I had my suspicions that he mollified my expressions when it was necessary for me to speak very decidedly. His duties were to interpret for me & to have a general oversight of the

boys & to see that ⁽²⁾ they were on hand
whenever wanted, especially for school
and meals and bed & to see that
they washed and kept themselves tidy.
Such odd times as could be spared from
this class of duties were used in Carpentering
jobs in which he was quite skilful.

George had a very good reputation here
before he was with the Carlisle and
I counted much upon his services.

These services were indeed satisfactory
after he had learned "the ropes of the
ship". George was also helpful in some
of the gymnastic exercises of the school.
The pupils all assemble for singing &
prayer immediately after breakfast &
I have often taken that opportunity
to speak a few helpful words to them, &
I would sometimes ask George to speak,
but he never did. &c.

The only fault I found with him
which I really could not overlook was
his frequent staying over time when he
was allowed to go away, which was
many times and at his own request.

He was very unreliable in regard to it.

and put me to great inconvenience.
I soon learned that he was eager to
get married and I favoured it - but
wished him to marry some educated
girl. When he did not succeed
in finding such an one I told him he
could bring his wife here, and he
could live with her in this house -
she as a pupil, he as an Employee.
This suited him - but his affianced
would not consent and I would
not retain him on any other conditions.
I was satisfied that he would be
very uneasy if she were absent & he
could be allowed to visit her only once
in a while. Only day before yester-
day when he came for his trunk & for
a settlement with me I asked him
if his wife was yet ready to come.
I saw his wife one issue day at the
Agency. She calls her 16. She does
not look over 13 or 14. She has
never been to school and does not
wish to go. If George is so disposed

he can find work to do as a Carpenter, I have done all I could to hold him up, and would do anything I could to help him now.

I think he has made a great mistake and will find it out - but too late for Mr. Keel may obtain employment as interpreter. I am sure he might also as Carpenter, though to follow his trade he had better locate in some town.

Indians succeeding amongst white people would be good examples for the tribe.

There is a prejudice against employing Indians to be overcome. I think that with perseverance he could overcome it. His address is in his favor -

Keel has not treated me right & I think he has been very foolish in his marriage - but if I have opportunity I will certainly befriend him. Mr. Keel was married after the Indian fashion before he ever went to Carlisle - what became of his wife I do not know. I presume he was divorced after the Indian fashion.

As to Flora I think she was always restless here. Her mother wanted her

to go home with her. Whenever the Indians were encamped here she would steal away and spend her time in the tepees, and I discovered that she spent some nights there and just before she left me I learned that a girl of bad reputation was around the house with whom Flora associated. I offended the father of one of my pupils and brother by marriage of this girl by insisting that he must take her away and never bring her again.

Flora had a bad reputation as to Chastity before she was left here to go to Carlisle. After leaving here she donned the blanket and went right back to tepee life. She has a husband now and is content to live as our Indians generally do. She is said to have been married more than once before she went to Carlisle. We had do not think there is much hope for her. Her value is here & she knows she can have it whenever she comes for it. I have not been

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willing to give it up to anyone else
because I wish to have a talk with
her.

Flora was Capable enough
as a laundress - but she was not very
industrious or cheerful. Indeed she
showed a morose & sulky disposition.

I asked George if he had any message
to send to you. He said only that he
did not wish to go back to Calicut.

I feel very sorry about this experience
with Eastern pupils, because it had
been a pet idea of mine to have Indians
assist in teaching Indians, as Negroes
do Negroes.

I am surprised that neither
George nor Flora have written to you.
George may have been an "ardent meth-
odist". I could see little indication
of it while he was here. The "Change
in religious surroundings" did not de-
prive him of all opportunity to show
it in conference, and certainly he
should have shown it more in his fi-
delity to his duties. I fear his religion
does not strike quite deep enough for
all practical purposes.

My faith in your work, my dear
Sir, is not materially shaken by
this unfortunate experience with
two of your pupils. I do not
listen much to the cry of failures
of Hampton and Carlisle students.
I believe that in general they are very
much benefitted and will make
good men and women and citizens,
and I should not be utterly hopeless
about any of them. Did I not
have this faith in regard to those
who have the great advantages of
your School, I certainly should not
presume to make men and women out
of the material that comes to me, &
with the few facilities which I have.
May heaven bless your efforts in the
future as indeed it has in the past.

Yours very sincerely

H. F. Bond
Sept^r