

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Section 10, Pages 271 - 300

This collection reflects E. P. Lamborn's life long interest in crime, criminals and law officers. E. P. Lamborn was an amateur historian and collector of sources on crime and criminals of the Middle West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His interests ranged from bandits, peace officers, famous detectives, and buffalo hunters. The Correspondence and Research section, presented here, contains much information on these topics from friends, relatives, companies, law officers, etc., who had some connection or dealings with these individuals. The arrangement for this section, generally, is alphabetical by last name of the correspondent. A detailed, searchable calendar of correspondents is available by clicking on "Text Version" below or by accessing the full collection finding aid in the link below. A transcription of this correspondence is not yet available. This series comprises boxes 2 and 3 of the E. P. Lamborn collection. You can find individual items in the order they are described in the "calendar of correspondents" by using the page selection feature available when you are looking at a full sized page image.

Creator: Lamborn, E. P. (Edward Parker), 1890-1978

Date: 1915-1965

Callnumber: E. P. Lamborn Coll. #156

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 221142

Item Identifier: 221142

www.kansasmemory.org/item/221142

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 3 -

in the year 1891, when Allee boarded the train and entered the same coach. Bowen tried to shoot, but Allee shot him first. Allee was acquitted in the courts on all the charges returned against him. He later went to Laredo where he was stabbed and killed in a saloon there in a difficulty with the bartender.

This information may do you some good if you have not yet published your book. Of course if you use any of this stuff enclosed, rewrite it in your own style as I have written something similar myself for publication, and don't use my name in connection with the information furnished.

N. H. Rose, photographer on Hamilton street in San Antonio, has in his collection pictures of Ben and Billy Thompson taken in Kansas about the time of the Ellsworth affair. I myself have the originals and Rose copied them. He could let you have copies of these pictures if you want them.

I dig around a little in this old stuff, mostly for my own amusement and have manuscript enough for a book with many pictures and circumstances not yet published. Probably you have some data that I have never seen.

Very truly yours

Frank H. Bushick
Frank H. Bushick
409 Camden Street
San Antonio, Texas

FHB/ajw

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Thompson

Stuart N. Lake who wrote the life of Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshall, said in his book:

Ben and Bill were Texas men who dealt a peripatetic faro game, moving from town to town with shifts of the cattle trade. In each cow capital where they opened their bank, the Thompsons arrogated to themselves the rule of life in that community. As this arrogance was predicated upon their frontier-wide reputations as man-killers and backed by extreme proficiency in the art of gun-throwing, it was seldom resented openly. Furthermore, as Texans, the Thompsons could count upon the active assistance of nearly every cowman in a camp in repelling an enforcement of Northern law and order. Life in a cowtown where Ben and Bill did business was to be lived as long as they remained there in entirely untrammelled fashion.

Ben Thompson, the elder, dominated the brotherly partnership. The two were born in England, but their parents had emigrated to Austin, Texas, where Ben at eighteen joined the Confederate army at the outbreak of the Civil War. At the close of the war, he went with Shelby to Old Mexico, for a time, but by the early seventies, he and Bill had gambled and shot their way through almost every frontier town from the Rio Grande to the Canadian line.

Both Thompsons were remarkably courageous men. Bill was the quicker to start an argument, possibly, but Ben could be counted on to finish any quarrel which either of them opened. As Bill was particularly pugnacious when drinking and always had some liquor in him, he kept his brother's love of finish-fights reasonably well satiated.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 2 -

According to Bat Masterson, Ben Thompson was the most dangerous killer in the Old West. In his "Story of the Outlaw" Emerson Hough substantiates this estimate. Hough calls Ben Thompson 'a very perfect exemplar of the creed of the six-shooter.'

'With the six-shooter,' Hough continues, 'he (Thompson) was a peerless shot, an absolute genius, none in all his wide surrounding claiming to be his superior; and he had a ferocity of disposition which grew with years until he had, as one of his friends put it, "a craving to kill people."

Masterson possessed over Hough the advantage of having seen Ben Thompson in gunplay, and qualified certain of the latter's statements. Bat recorded that there was one man living during Ben's time who was his equal for six-shooter speed and accuracy. That one was Wyatt Earp. But he agrees with Hough unqualifiedly in the statement that Ben Thompson during his career shot his way out of a greater number of six-gun duels than any other desperado of his era, and that his very name was enough to make the general run of gunmen or gun-fighting marshals avoid him when humanly possible.

Hays, Ogallala, Baxter Springs, and Abilene saw the Thompson faro game come and go, and lived their hectic weeks under the high, wide, and handsome splurge of Thompson rule. In Abilene, the brothers operated the Bull's Head Tavern and Gambling Saloon, where Brother Ben added to his reputation by backing the redoubtable Hickok into his hole and suggesting that he pull the hole in after him, when Wild Bill, as marshal, objected to Bull's Head goings-on. No history has been more garbled than that of Western gunmen, and the Thompson careers have been no exception -- the brothers have been held responsible for fifty killings; but it has been definitely established that by the time

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 3 -

they moved to Ellsworth, they had planted at least twenty-seven denizens of various frontier Boot Hills. Of this number, Bill was known to have killed two; Ben, presumably, had disposed of the other twenty-five.

Wyatt Earp quickly learned that Ben Thompson, in local parlance, had Ellsworth treed. Earlier in the season, when it became evident that the village was to be the recreational rendezvous for some two thousand cowboys who preferred their pleasures raw and in the red, the Ellsworth councilmen had made precautionary moves by hiring J. W., 'Brocky Jack,' Norton, a famous gun-fighter, as marshal, and appointing as first deputy John, 'Happy Jack' Morco, with a record as an Indian fighter and authentic credit for a dozen six-gun killings against white men. Two additional deputies, Charlie Brown and Ed Crawford, also were gun-fighters of repute. As a contribution to the hope for a peaceful summer, the county offered its sheriff, C. B. Whitney -- a merchant rather than a peace officer, but noted for his courage -- and the deputy sheriff, John Hogue, who had more than a local reputation for fearless proficiency with his forty-fives.

Ben Thompson was leading spirit of the lawless; his right hand man was Brother Bill; as left bower, Ben had George Peshaur, another Texas killer, and as additional backing an army of cow-punchers who could be counted upon to the limit in any gun play against Northern men. Of the cowboys, the ringleaders were Cad Pierce, John Good, and Neil Kane, notorious as trouble-makers in every camp on the Texas trail.

For two months of the summer of '73, Ben Thompson, from headquarters at the Grand Central, where he had opened his faro bank, defied the vaunted Ellsworth marshals with impunity, and the hundreds

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 4 -

of cowboys in town did likewise. Citizenry, mayor, councilmen, and imported peace officers had been treed together and apparently did not intend to come down until the last Texas man had started South. Such was the status of Ellsworth's hope for law and order when Wyatt Earp reached the camp.

From the saloon in which the Thompsons were gambling, a violent uproar was followed by the appearance of the brothers on the plaza. They came out of the door on the run, Bill cursing loudly and shouting threats over his shoulder as the pair made for the Grand Central. A moment later, they reappeared from the hotel and headed back toward the saloon, Ben carrying a double-barreled shotgun and Bill, a rifle. At the rail in front of the saloon stood a pair of horses hitched to a hay-wagon and behind this rack the Thompsons took their stand, Bill shouting threats and imprecations and Ben adding profanely insulting invitations to those inside the saloon to 'Come out and make your fight.' Fifteen minutes later, Whitney came out of the saloon, alone, and stopped to talk.

'They've calmed down a bit,' the sheriff reported. 'They're inside with a bunch of Texas men.'

'Did you take their guns away from them?' Wyatt asked.

'No,' Whitney replied, 'they wouldn't stand for that.'

Before Wyatt had time to comment on this matter, Bill Thompson appeared in Brennan's doorway with Ben's shotgun.

'I'll get a sheriff if I don't get anybody else,' he declared.

Wyatt and Whitney turned to face him; Bill fired both barrels of the gun -- eighteen buckshot -- point-blank into the sheriff's breast, and ran back into the saloon.

Wyatt caught Whitney in his arms.

'I'm done,' the sheriff gasped. 'Get me home.'

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 5 -

At the roar of gunfire, saloon, hotels, and stores spouted five hundred men into the Ellsworth plaza, nine tenths of them Texas gun-toters, an unarmed minority, local citizens. Ben and Bill Thompson walked deliberately out of Brennan's to a string of saddled cowponies at a near-by rail, Ben covering one flank with the rifle, Bill, the other with the shotgun. In front of the Grand Central, Thompson followers collected under George Peshaur, Cad Pierce, Neil Kane, and John Good, to forestall attack, and the brothers swung their gun-muzzles back and forth to menace the store fronts as they argued over ensuing procedure.

Friends of Sheriff Whitney volunteered to take the dying man home and Wyatt Earp turned his attention to the Thompsons. He stepped again into Beebe's entrance, and peered around the door-casing into the plaza for sight of the Ellsworth peace officers. None were in view. Beebe's door opened, and there at Wyatt's shoulder was Happy Jack Morco, Indian fighter and six-gun expert, two belts of ammunition around his waist and a forty-five-Colt's at either hip. Wyatt gave way to let Morco reconnoiter.

'For God's sake, get out of town,' Ben Thompson urged Bill. 'You shot Sheriff Whitney.'

'I know it,' Bill replied. 'I'd have shot him if he'd been Jesus Christ.'

Happy Jack peeped cautiously around the door-casing. Ben took a pot-shot without sighting his rifle. The bullet struck half an inch above the deputy marshal's head and he ducked for cover.

'Too high,' Ben informed Bill with an oath of regret. 'Get on that horse and get out of here before Whitney's friends get organized. Take this rifle and give me my shotgun. I'll cover your get-away.'

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

- 6 -

Wyatt realized that the brothers were appropriating a cow-pony and exchanging weapons, as the rifle would be preferable for Bill on a lone ride down the trail. Here was Happy Jack's opportunity.

'Jump out and get 'em,' Wyatt suggested. 'Hurry, while they're switching guns.'

'Not me,' Happy Jack replied. 'Those fellows across the street might get me.'

'You'd get both Thompsons first,' Wyatt urged, but Morco refused to budge.

Wyatt restrained an impulse to boot the deputy marshal on to the open walk, and peered around the casing again. Bill was in the saddle with the Winchester in front of him; Ben, with the shotgun, backed into the road. To quote the Ellsworth Reporter:

"He (Bill) then rode slowly out of town, cursing and inviting a fight."

No one accepted the invitation.

* * *

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

THE OLDEST BOOK STORE
IN THE STATE
ESTABLISHED IN 1877
THE PROPRIETOR, GAMMEL
WAS BORN IN DENMARK
RICH AND GOOD LOOKING
—NOT SO NOW.
YOU UNDERSTAND MONEY
RULES THE WORLD
THE WORLD RULES YOUR
GOOD LOOKS
SO DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED
WHEN WE MEET AGAIN
H. P. N. GAMMEL

GAMMEL'S BOOK STORE

WE BUY AND SELL ANY KIND OF BOOKS SEND FOR CATALOG LIBRARIES BOUGHT AND SOLD

HARRY GAMMEL H. P. N. GAMMEL, Sr. CLAYTON HEARE
Traveling Salesman Secretary

Austin, Texas

April 28, 1924.

REFERENCE:
MRS. H. P. N. GAMMEL
HER 3 BOYS AND 3 GIRLS
AND A FEW OTHER
FRIENDS
DON'T HESITATE TO SELL TO
ME OR BUY. YOU WILL NOT
DOUBT MY REFERENCES. IF
YOU DO, WRITE THEM.
H. P. N. GAMMEL

Mr. Joe W. Bates,
Box 105,
Kemp, Texas.

Dear Sir:

We have your favor of the 26th and have sent the copy of "Trooper's Manual" to you as per invoice enclosed.

We thank you very much for the order. We hope to give you some further quotations shortly.

Very truly yours,

GAMMEL'S BOOK STORE.

l.c

Mr. Lamborn found this letter in my pocket and you can write this man about your old books. He will get them for you.

IF IT'S A BOOK YOU CAN GET IT FROM GAMMEL'S

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Gammel's Just Captured "Bill McDonald" *The Texas Ranger*

A book written by
A. B. PAINE

It is said he would charge "Hell" with a bucket of water and most of us who knew him know that he would.

Well anyway, we have found the lost copies of this wonderful book. It reads like fiction, but all Texans know it to be a narrative of facts. This internationally known Texas Ranger cleaned up a "No-Man's Land," as it was known in Oklahoma and Indian Territory. He was the Pal and guard of Colonel Roosevelt on the famous Wolf Hunt in the Indian Territory and the President said it was the "best time of his life."

Some of the Chapter Titles better express the scope of the book and "Col. Bill's" exploits as follows:

Redeeming No Man's Land; Cleaning up the Strip; Exciting Indian Campaigns; Taming the Panhandle; The Battle with Matthews; What Happened to Beckham; A Medal for Speed; Preventing a Prize Fight; The Wichita Falls Bank Robbery and Murder; The Buzzard's Water Hole Gang; The Trans-Cedar Mystery; Other Mobs and Riots; The Brownsville Episode; The Battle of the Rio Grande, etc., etc.

The book contains nine splendid colored illustrations. A splendid book and one you will really enjoy. Price \$5.00 prepaid, as long as they last.

Gammel's Book Store

AUSTIN, TEXAS

"If It's a Book You Can Get It at Gammel's"

GAMMEL'S BOOK STORE, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sirs:

Send me a copy of *Capt. Bill McDonald, Texas Ranger*, prepaid for \$5.00.

Check enclosed.
(Name)

Charge my account.
(Address)

Send C. O. D.
(Town)

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

CARBON COPY OF LETTER FROM THE DIAMOND MATCH CO., NEW ORLEANS LA.

Mr. Lamborn :-

For references,

Gammels Book Store	Austin, Texas.
F. Theodore Dexter,	Marshalltown, Iowa.
A.W. English,	Portage, Wis.
F.J. Valente,	Mansfield, Mass.
W.H. Everson,	Bozeman, Mont.

I am sending you list of Antique Guns that I have just received from Mr. F.J. Valente and they are sure in fine condition. I am going to have story and pictures of my collection in Fort Worth Record in a few week and I will send you copy. Let me hear from you by return mail.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

ANTIQUE GUNS

Revolutionary War Flintlock Brown Bess Musket, with sling swivels and bayonet. Lock marked "Ramsey Sutherland, London." English proof marks on barrel. Infantry size with three ramrod thimbles. Fine condition ----- \$15.50

U. S. Springfield Percussion Musket made by E. Whitney, Middletown, Conn., 1833, with sling swivels, ramrod and bayonet. Brass butt plate, with knob for use as club. Very good ----- \$7.00

U. S. Flintlock Breechloading Musket, Hall's patent, made by S. North, Middletown, Conn., 1835, with ramrod and sling swivels. These are scarce guns. Fine condition ----- \$14.50

U. S. Harpers Ferry Percussion Musket, 1852. Long patch box, extra nipple inside. Brass bands, ramrod, sling swivels and sling strap. Fine condition ----- \$11.00

U. S. Springfield Musket, 1863. With ramrod, sling swivels and sling strap. Good condition ----- \$3.00

U. S. Springfield Musket, made under contract to government by Savage Arms Co., 1863, with ramrod and sling swivels. Fine condition ----- \$5.75

Poultney & Trimble Percussion Carbine, Smith patent, 1857. Fine condition ----- \$1.25

Sharps' Percussion Breechloading Rifle, 1852. Lawrence patent pellet primer 1859. Patch box in stock, sling swivels and bayonet lug under barrel. Fine condition ----- \$5.75

Richardson & Overman, Gallaghers patent breechloading percussion carbine 1860. Patch box in stock. Fine condition ----- \$4.25

Kentucky Percussion Rifle, barrel 42" by J. Wright and lock by R. Ashmore. Lock and brass mountings engraved. Long spring cover patch box, ornamental silver scroll back of tang. Cheek-piece on stock. About 40 calibre, deep cut rifling. With sights, ramrod and powder horn. Fine condition ----- \$19.50

Burnside Civil War Percussion breechloading carbine, 1856. ----- \$3.65

Manton Percussion Double Shotgun. Good condition ----- \$2.75

Van Wart Percussion Double Shotgun. Good condition ----- \$3.25

English Single Barrel Shotgun. Fine condition. Percussion ----- \$2.85

AMMUNITION

All good clean stock. Prices are per 50 cartridges.

7.62 Remington Russian, \$2.60; 22 Automatic Winchester, 40c; 40-45 Winchester, \$1; 56 Spencer, 65c; 38-55, \$1.50; 25-20 single shot, 95c; 30-30 Winchester, \$1.80; 45 Webley, 75c; 10-gauge blank shells, \$3.25; 12-gauge re-loaded shot shells, \$1; 12-gauge shot shells, \$1.50; 16-gauge shot shells, \$1.50.

Empty reloadable cartridge and paper shell cases—30-30, 40-45, 38-55, 1c each; 10 or 12 gauge, 1c each; 12-gauge brass shells, 5c each.

Old Bullet moulds, 20c each.

Civil War, Spanish War, or World War bullets, 5c each.

Set 32 volumes History Civil War, rare and interesting ----- \$2.45

Civil War Remington Rifle knife bayonet and scabbard, fine, 85c.


Have hundreds of antique gun parts from old Foster gun factory at Taft Taunton, Mass., at low prices. Send sketch or broken part. I may have just what you want to fix up that old gun.

Wanted: U. S. Single Shot Pistols, Civil War Cap and Ball Revolvers, or modern handguns in exchange for above. State all first letter.

F. J. VALENTE

Member N. R. A.

MANSFIELD : : : : MASSACHUSETTS



**READ THESE
PRICES**

**BEFORE
BUYING
ELSEWHERE**

LETTERHEADS

On White Bond
Size 8 1-2x11

250 for	1.50
500 for	2.25
1000 for	4.00

SENT POSTPAID
SEND CASH WITH ORDER

**WHITE WOVE
ENVELOPES**

Size 6 3-4
At Same Prices as Above

WE Have a fully equipped print shop, with Mergenthaler
Linotype, platen and cylinder presses, and will be glad
to estimate on any job you may need, whether large or small.

GRAPHIC PUBLISHING CO.
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

*1000 Circulars Like this on Poster Paper, Your Adv. One
Side, Ours Reverse, Postpaid for \$2.50*

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

CARBON COPY OF LETTER FROM THE DIAMOND MATCH CO., NEW ORLEANS LA.

Denton, Texas.
5-1-24.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

Received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I am writing you today from Denton my home town as all my people live here and moved from Kentucky in 1853 to Denton County. I am a Cousin to ED F. Bates of Denton and as you know he wrote "History & Reminiscences of Denton County, Texas". My Uncle James F. Bates of Phenix, Ariz. wrote the book you want "Authentic History of Sam Bass and his Gang in I think 1878 or 1879 and I will try to get this book for you if there is a possible chance. Ed F. Bates has been trying to find one of these books for a long time, I have a friend in Austin, Texas who I think has a copy.

About my collection of pictures and Guns, I am moving from Kemp, Texas, to Wortham, which is in Freestone County. I have my collection at Wortham which has been my home for the last three years but I have been in Kemp for the last six months and when I get back to Wortham I will get all my stuff together and will send it to you.

I have history here at Denton "Quantrill and the Border Wars" by William Elsey Connelley. Also have "Charles W. Quantrell, A True Story Of Guerilla Warfare" by John P. Burch and told by Captain Harrison Trow. If you will write to Gammels Book Store, Austin, Texas, he will get you any book that you want, if it is in this country. Tell him just what you want and for him to send you his list of books.

If you will send me the picture of Sam Bass, Billy the Kid and Wild Bill Hickok and any others that you will let me have. I will send them by insured parcel post to Fox and Company, San Antonio and have two copies made of every picture you send me. I will return the original picture and a copy to you. Send me the pictures by Insured Parcel Post to Joe W. Bates, P.O. Box 285, Wortham, Texas. I will be there next week and will send them to San Antonio and it will only take about ten days to get them back to you but as you do not know me you can write Ed F. Bates, Denton. And I can give you all the references you want.

I will be very glad to hear from you any time and hope that you will send me the pictures and I am sure that I can help you and just as soon as I get back to Wortham will write you a long letter. Let me hear from you and I hope you send the pictures,

Yours very truly, Joe W. Bates
Wortham, Texas.

These to find out how I get back out - work and will look over my collection + wish you.
If you do not have the book will send it to you. I have some pictures of the Kansas at - Mexico, Texas. When we were rounded up at - Kansas and of the negro trouble at - Kansas in the State Country. Will send you.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Call.
156.02-03

C. M. CADE
831 EAST DRIVE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Dec. 18, 1939

Mr. E. P. Lamborn
R. F. D. # 2
Leavenworth, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 4th at hand. You have asked so many questions, and you are like myself, interested in the old pioneers, that it would take pages for me to answer you.

I am the same Cash Cade that Al Jennings spoke about in Beating Back. It also was published in the Saturday Evening Post. The story that he told was all true except as to the amount of money.

You ask about the O'Malleys. The older ones are dead. There is a younger one that was in knee pants the time Jennings speaks about me sending him the money, who brought the letter from Al Jennings to me, and this indian boy never said a word- just gave me the envelop containing Al Jennings request. I put the money in another envelop, gave it to young O'Malley and said nothing to him. This O'Malley is still living in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

There was a leak in the Al Jennings gang that gave me information that they were to rob our bank, which was the First National of Shawnee. I went to Al Jennings father, who was Probate Judge, and told him what the gang expected to do and told him that I would not be held up, the morning before I got the note from Al Jennings.

Yes the Burt Casey gang that hung out at the four corners of the Choctaw, Chickasha, Seminole and Pottawatomie Reservations, and at this intersection in Pottawatomie County, was the hang-out place and they had at that place one saloon. I have known the Jennings family for 66 years. Al Jennings is in Los Angeles, his brother, Frank, lives at Healdton, Okla.

The Burt Casey gang came from Texas. I cant tell about their relatives. The Casey's are all dead.

The Christian Boys gang, I know nothing about.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

C. M. CADE

831 EAST DRIVE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

I have no photographs of any of these different gangs.

There should be an '89ers historian that would tell the truth of Old Oklahoma, its Deputy Marshalls, bad men, unwritten history and so on. It wont be done.

My brother, W. S. Cade, was U. S. Marshall from 1908-12.

The best Marshall that Old Oklahoma ever had was Bill Faucett who is still alive and living at Kingfisher, Oklahoma. If you would write him a letter, he could give you all the information you want. He may have some photographs.

Well I must close. I knew the Dalton Boys well.

Yours truly,

C. M. Cade

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Cell.
156.2.3

Austin Texas
6/28/24.

E. P. Lamborn
Rt 2 Leavenworth Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your ad in Frontier Times. An old man at Round Rock Texas has an enlarged picture 16x20 of Ben Thompson. I believe in color, but only, taken when Marshall of Austin has in uniform cap. What is it worth to you?

I want the book "Life of Ben Thompson" I also want other books of this character.

Some of the copies of ^{part of} John W. Hardin have a picture of him inserted, with notation from the publishers. It shows John W. Hardin also one of his two Joe. Some of the copies only show picture of Joe and call it John W. Hardin which is a mistake. I have both copies of the book will trade. Please let me know

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

if you want me to get that
enlarged picture for you and what
to offer the old man for it.

Yours truly

Frank Caldwell

108 E. 17 st.

Austin, Tex.

P.S. Have you any more copies of
"Frontier Times"? C.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Have you read the Nation's work?
Hope we can do some snuffing.

Austin Tex.
7-28-28.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn
Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Sir:

The old folks who have life size
picture of Ben Thompson 16x20 in frame
but, everyone will sell it: they said
they paid \$7.50 for it but I can get
it for \$5.00 frame and all if you
care to spend this much for it.

I am writing to a fellow
who has. Pictures of Texas Jack, Wild Bill
Colquhoun and Sitting Bull. Have you these?

I have a Kodak picture of Sam Bass.
now I too. Recently I will look it
up and send it along to you and it
will cost you a cent. It is a small
one but will answer the purpose.

I also have a splendid Kodak picture.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

of Capt W.F. Drumm - Savat. I took
about 20 years ago out on the plains of Tex.
If I can locate it will send you one if
you want it it won't cost you a cent
either. Koderling is a hobby with me.
Your book Texas and ruins are
very similar. Those old outlaws and gun
men always interest me. I like to read
about 'em. I have a small collection
just started a year ago. I write up of
Abilene Kansas in the years of 1874 to 1880
or thereabouts would sure interest me.
What will you take for life of Ben
Thompson? name your price. Please
see if you can get me a copy and at
what price, for the love of mine let me
know. Have you read Linigo's book, nor
Macmillan's book. Please send me a list.
I also collect old U.S. Stamp and Indian arrow
heads.
Your truly
Frank Caldwell
will look out for outlaw
pictures?
108 E. 17th
Austin, Tex.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Austin Tex
8/10/29

E. P. Lamborn.
Dear Sir:

Did you not get my last letter in which I quoted the prices the old people wanted for picture of Ben Thompson? I also asked you if you could get me a copy of *Life of Ben Thompson* at what price?

I received the list of the books you have for which I thank you. Which of the 85 have you in duplicate or which can you get for me and at what prices please. If you will answer my last letter I will know how to proceed in regard

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

to trying to get the pictures
you want.

You sure have a wonderful
collection of the very kind of books
I am interested in.

Round Rock Texas is in Williamson
County, I saw a copy of Williamson
County paper pub. July 21, 1878

giving an account of the fight with
Sam Bass. I couldn't get the paper
however. This was last week.

Awaiting answer to my last letter

I am very truly yours

Frank Caldwell

108 E. 17th

Austin, Tex.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Cell
156.2.3

Austin, Tex.
Sept 6th, 1920

Dear Mr. Lamborn,

I have sure been busy the past 12 months - and it has just been 12 months since I got a letter from you.

The other day I saw the old people at Round Rock, Texas, and they told me our friend Gammel had just paid them \$10.00 for that Ben Thompson picture they wanted to sell me. You know you told me to try to get it for less than \$5.00. I think Gammel paid a heap too much for it - but he'll probably find a buyer.

However I am sending you 3 little Kodak pictures with notations on the back of each. Hardly a word press but what I traveled within a few feet of Sam Bass' grave.

I have never seen a copy of "Sam Bass" book, tho I have searched for a year for it.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

#2

you sure have got a collection of books. My tastes are very similar to yours along that line of literature. I also collect Indian arrow-heads etc, old postage stamps before the civil war and have a few cap & ball pistols.

The touch-stone was at head of Sam Bass' grave and soon be a thing of the past as the poor surviving hunters are chipping it away.

Along side of Sam Bass lies Silas Barnes. a small head piece marks his grave it too is chipped badly and the inscription is nearly all chipped away. It once read - "SILAS BARNES", "Right Bower of Sam Bass" - Died July - 1878.

In your list of books of your library you did not mention Brewster's 31 years on the Plains, or Quantrell and his Guerrilla Band by J. B. Smith as told by Harrison Drew one of his men. The Partisan Rangers by Johnston. nor Indian Celebrations from Texas by Willinger. or Romances of the Davis Mountains.

What do you think of that fellow Kit Dalton author of Under the Black Flag?

Yours very truly
Frank Caldwell
608 E. 17 st. Austin, Tex

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Coll. 152-2-3 [ENVELOPE POSTMARKED] 8-20-1926
 Dear Mr. Lamborn - Austine Tice
[CALDWELL]

It has been a long time since I heard from you or you from me. Say, I saw the greatest picture of Ben Thompson not long ago. It is full figure in his sport clothes big watch chain square toed shoes striped trousers fancy vest long coat straw like hat walking cane mustache all all. He was some dandy them days. I also have picture of Sam Bass. In the original, we Hardin told there has been a picture of John Wesley Hardin inserted opposite one of his friends Joe. The following notation appears directly beneath the picture of Joe. "John Wesley Hardin" The picture on the opposite page is

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

about of Joe Hardin. Look up your book and
see if it has both Joe and Wes' picture
in front of book. I have two copies with these
pictures. I have duplicate copies of the
following books -

To you in Texas. by Francis.
The evolution of a state. Smithwick.
Capt. Jeff - Malley's Texas Rangers - Malley.
Regulators + Moderators - Reprint from the ^{Historical} Register.
Henry Tomlin - E. Connet. himself

I want. Original Life of Ben Thompson

Early days in Texas by McArthur.
Dodge City by Wright.
Share you with Quantrell by McCordle.
Hard Knocks Young.

Name your lowest price on any ^{and all} of above
Dodge City + Hard Knocks are especially anxious for

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

3

I am a Trading man and
show in getting to receive my
letters - but I keep your letter on
file for future reference. You are
wired to hear from me any time
you got anything to trade.

Yours very truly
Frank Caldwell
105 E 17th
Austin Tex

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Austin Tex.
9-12-20.

Dear Mr. Lamborn,

I thank you for sending me that book H. & H. in Texas. I never hear of it before. How many copies have you. P.D. money order for \$3.50 in closed to pay for same.

The Henry Tomlin book is a paper back, with the covers gone, at that, and is just the story of a convict who served his time in Texas. The book has about 250 pages. Tomlin served 18 years, a death bed confession proved his innocence. He is one man who fought the State 18 years saying he would not work as he was innocent and owed the State nothing. The book was pub. in 1904 I think.

"Capt. Juff" Maltby was capt. of co. of Rangers on Frontier near Burnet Texas 1863 to 1874. Was chiefly occupied with Indian Fights. The book was printed in 1906 cloth bound about 220 pp. but is very scarce. I never had it, nor any other book store that I know of.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

The Bass picture is a copy from a tin type when he was about 16 yrs old. rather a rangy looking kid. Looks like light brown hair and blue eyes and light complexioned and I'd judge would weigh about 150 lbs. a bust photo of Bass by himself taken in Indiana I have been told.

I am sure I can get that standing photo of Ben Thompson - just give me a little time, I am a traveling man and do not have much time at home. The

The picture in your Wrs Hardin book is of Joe Hardin. Wrs was smaller, shaver and heavier looking and lighter complexioned - judging from his picture compared to Jos. My book shows both pictures and calls attention to Jos's picture being wrongly titled Wrs.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

3.
Now I'll either have to have a photo-
stat made or I'll have to tear out the
picture of Wrs to send you.

If you get your trading clothes on
send me "Hard Knocks" for Thompson
and Wrs Hardin pictures and I'll
throw in the Tomlin book.

I can not send Sam Bass picture
or copy, it was given to me, seemingly in
confidence that I not pass it on yet a-
while.

I like to swap books. Have a few
duplicates tell me what you will send me
for other books you want. What books
do you want. Your friend.

Frank Caldwell
108 E. 17th
Austin, Tex

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Mr. Lamborn -

Please let me know what it will cost
to get the following books - and where.

Oklahoma Outlaws -
Life of Henry Starr
Beating Back
Hell on the Border
Dodge City
Three Years with Quantrell
A Texas Ranger - by James
50 yrs a Detective - Mulvey
Clay Allison -

Yours Truly,

Frank Caldwell

108 E. 17th

Austin Tex.

Please give me the names of some
2nd hand book dealers - you know.

Ø