

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Section 21, Pages 601 - 630

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.

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E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Fifty Years on the Old Frontier

Of that famous company—Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Buffalo Bill, and the others—who tracked and tamed the West, “Capt. Jim” Cook is one of the few left to tell the story.

While still a mere lad, and long before the big cattle business developed farther north, Cook was catching wild cattle in Texas and herding them up the long trail into Kansas and sometimes as far north as the Platte. Later he was attracted to the life of a big game hunter in the Wyoming country where his fame soon became such that sportsmen from many parts of the world engaged him to conduct their hunting parties through the Rockies.

As population moved westward and the big game disappeared Cook also moved on, and we next find him in New Mexico, managing a ranch and in the very thick of the Geronimo outbreak. But it was the vast Sioux country, over which he had roamed as a cowboy and hunter, that finally

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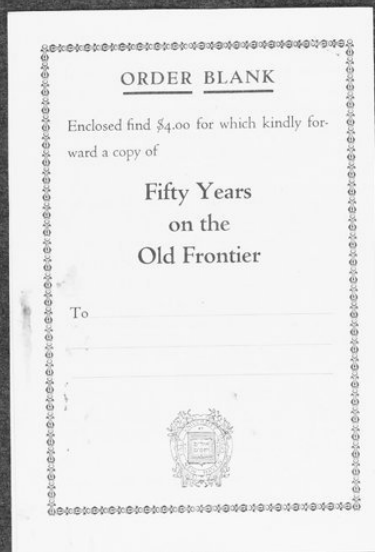
claimed him as a settler. This was at a time when another Indian outbreak seemed inevitable, but the strong friendship between Cook and Red Cloud (a friendship that lasted over thirty-five years) kept peace on the plains, until the advance of civilization ended all possibility of an Indian war.

Curiously enough not even the settling up of the country ended the romance of Cook's picturesque career, for on his ranch there has been discovered a veritable mine of fossils from which our museums have been enriched and our knowledge of prehistoric America vastly increased. Of recent years Agate Springs Ranch has become a mecca of scientists, as well as of tourists who by the thousands visit the place.

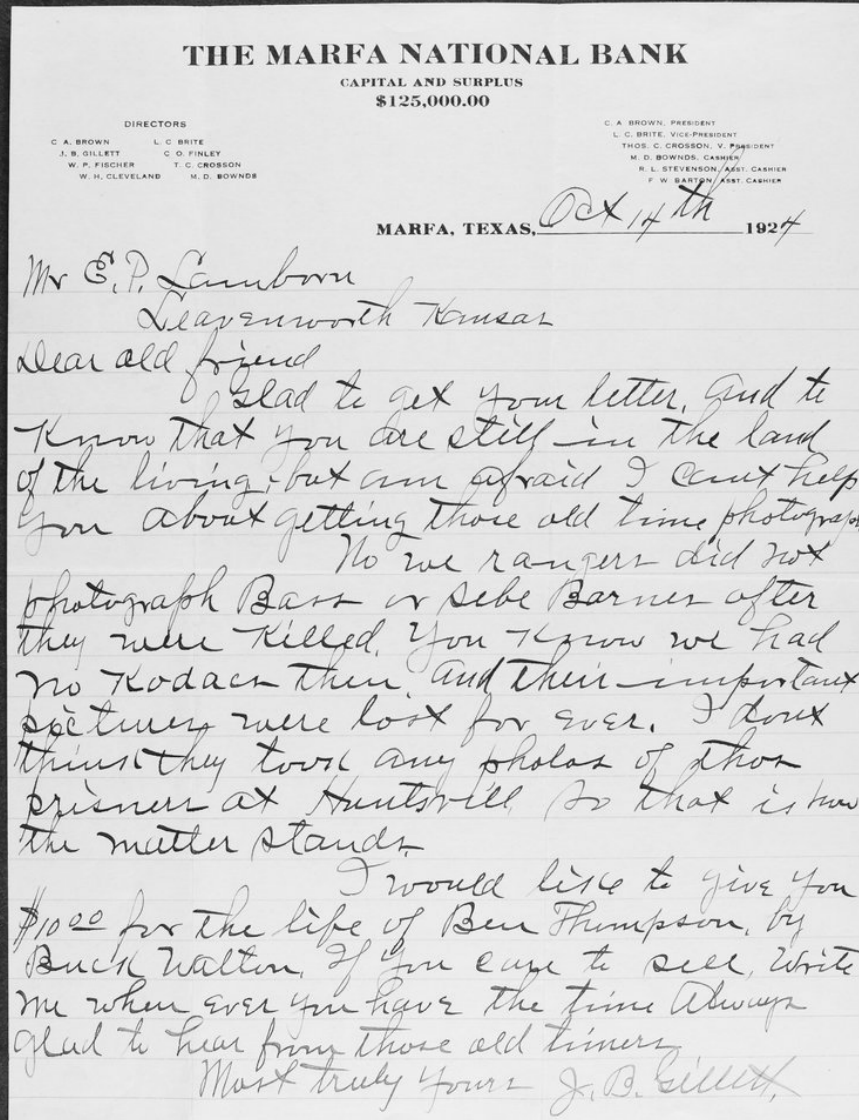
"Fifty Years on the Old Frontier" thus comes to be not only a vivid account of life in the old west but also an historical and scientific document of the utmost importance.

*Large 8vo. 420 pages, with many illustrations
from old photographs. Price \$4.00*

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E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Cell.
156: 2: 9

Marfa Texas
Sept 15 1933

E. P. Lamborn
Lilavertworth Kansas

Hello Boss, you old rascal you can ask more questions than any school boy I ever saw, why don't you put in 25¢ in stamps once in a while for all the replies you want?

That boy Milton Gillett that married Miss Freida Burner in Kansas City is my baby boy now 33 years of age. Miss Burner use to teach school here in Marfa and that is how my son came to know her. They now live on my ranch.

I have no newspaper clippings that are not pasted in my three scrap books. And of course, can't send them. Yes I know a lot about Clay Allison. I have the life of Clay Allison published in Indiana by a friend. It is long out of print and a copy could not be had now for \$10.00

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If you will send me your copy of
"Hands up" ² or the history of a crime, The
great Union Pacific Robbery by Al Forenson
and let me read it I will send you
my copy of Clay Allison to read.
I am sure you have
"Hands Up" it is about Jael Collins
and Sam Bass holding up the N.P.
train at Big Springs Neb. I had
a copy once but some one swiped it
It is just a pamphlet of 139 pages. I
will pay \$1.00 cash for a good sound
copy. It was published at Omaha
in the fall of 1877.

Clay Allison never
was in any trouble while he lived
at Pecos City. I see plenty of people
every year that knew him well.

Yes I know a lot about
Jim Miller. He was a son-in-law
of old Mommie Clements who was a
cousin of John Westley Hardin. Jim
Miller was one of the worst criminals
that ever lived in Texas. He killed
people for a price that was his
business, but he finally over played his
hand in killing a cattleman at Ada

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Oklahoma was captured there and hanged
by citizens of that place, no doubt
in my mind but that Jim Miller
killed Pat Garrett. Near Abilene N.M.
All though Waine Brasel, was tried
and acquitted for the murder of Garrett.
I have the life of Pat
Garrett, too. Barney Riggs was killed
at Fort Stockton Texas by his son-in-
law, Billy Chadbourn. Riggs was not a bad
man at heart but was ferless. Jim
Miller sent to men in to Decos, City
to murder Barney Riggs and Riggs killed
both in a gun battle in a saloon
at Decos.

I think Alfred Allee, killed
Brock Comett, on a train between
San Antonio and La Salle County, though
I am not sure about this.

The Frier Brothers, Ed and
Art were killed in Jeff Davis County,
Texas about 25 miles from where I
now lived. Thaler took, one of Captain
Hughes rangers killed them both
with a gun. I loaned Cook, it is
a 45-90 Winchester, I own it today
and have it in my collection of old arms.

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These Frier brothers ⁴ are buried at old Fort Davis now Durt Humphries who escaped at the time those boys were killed was later captured and served a time in the pen for horse stealing. After serving out his time he came here and lived in Marfa where he has a sister living now. She recently told me that Durt fell off a moving freight train in your state Kansas and was killed.

I don't know any thing about Bud Newman and Bill Taylor, only what I read in the papers and the time of the fight at or near Sonora Tex.

You can get a fine copy 2nd Edition, "Life Years with the Texas Rangers" from Yale University Press New Haven Conn. at \$4.00 per copy. All first Editions out of print and now sell for \$10.00 while one can be had.

I read Stuart N. Lakes story of Wyatt Earp in the Saturday Evening Post. I all so have letters from Lake. His story was so over drawn and incorrect that I would not by the book when published.

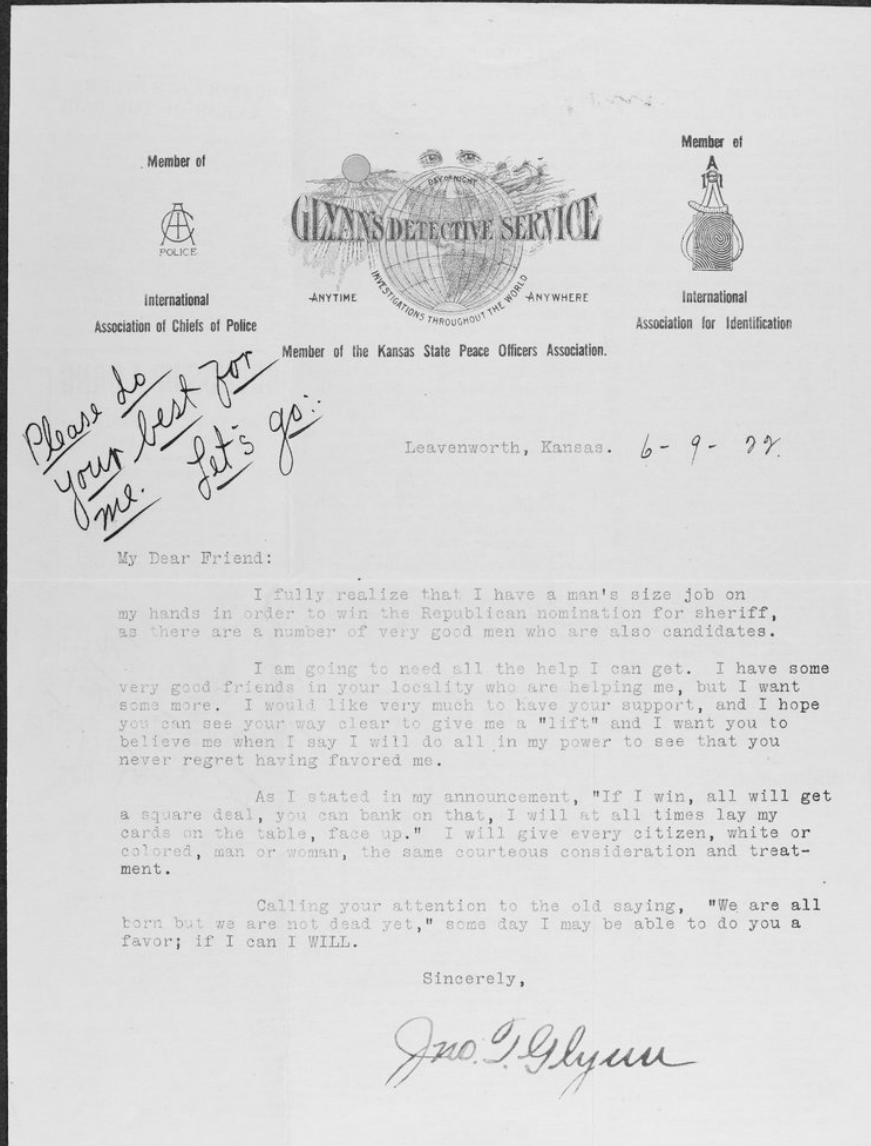
E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

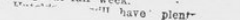
While Wyatt Earp was no doubt a brave
and fearless officer, yet like Billy the Kid
he generally had a crowd with him to
back him. Don't think Earp in the
same class with Wild Bill, Ben Thompson
or Wes Hardin as a single handed
fighter. That is these three men would
match a fight with you single handed
and take a chance in beating you
on the draw. This is only my opinion.
I met Wyatt Earp his broz
Doc Hollada and Pat Masterson often
in El Paso when I was City Marshal
they gave me no trouble but acted
kind gentlemen. I doubt if Earp ever
had any trouble with Clay Allison or ever
tamed him. Neither do I believe that
Wyatt Earp took a shot gun away from
Ben Thompson at Wichita Kansas
as Lake would make us believe.
Yet a man clothed with
the law. Always has 50 per cent the best
of it in making an arrest and
all bad men and gun fighters know
that.
I've just received a fine copy, "Wild
Bill and His Era"

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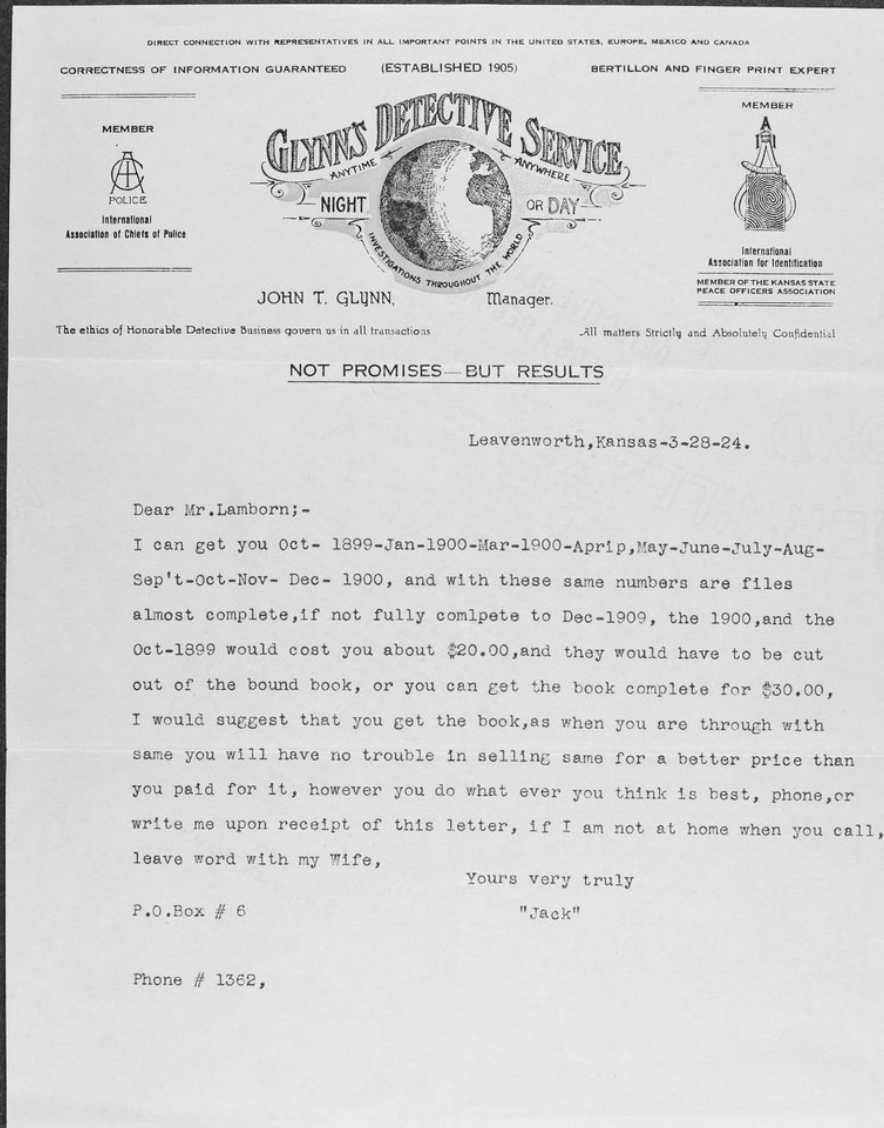
By the late William Elsey Connelley of your
state I have not had time to read it but
it seems to be nicely bound and the
print is fine. I now have I think every
book written on wild Dill, some are good
and some very bad, now Mr Lamborn
if you haven't a copy of "Hands Up!"
do try and dig up a copy for me.
And adieu your most truly
James B. Gillet.

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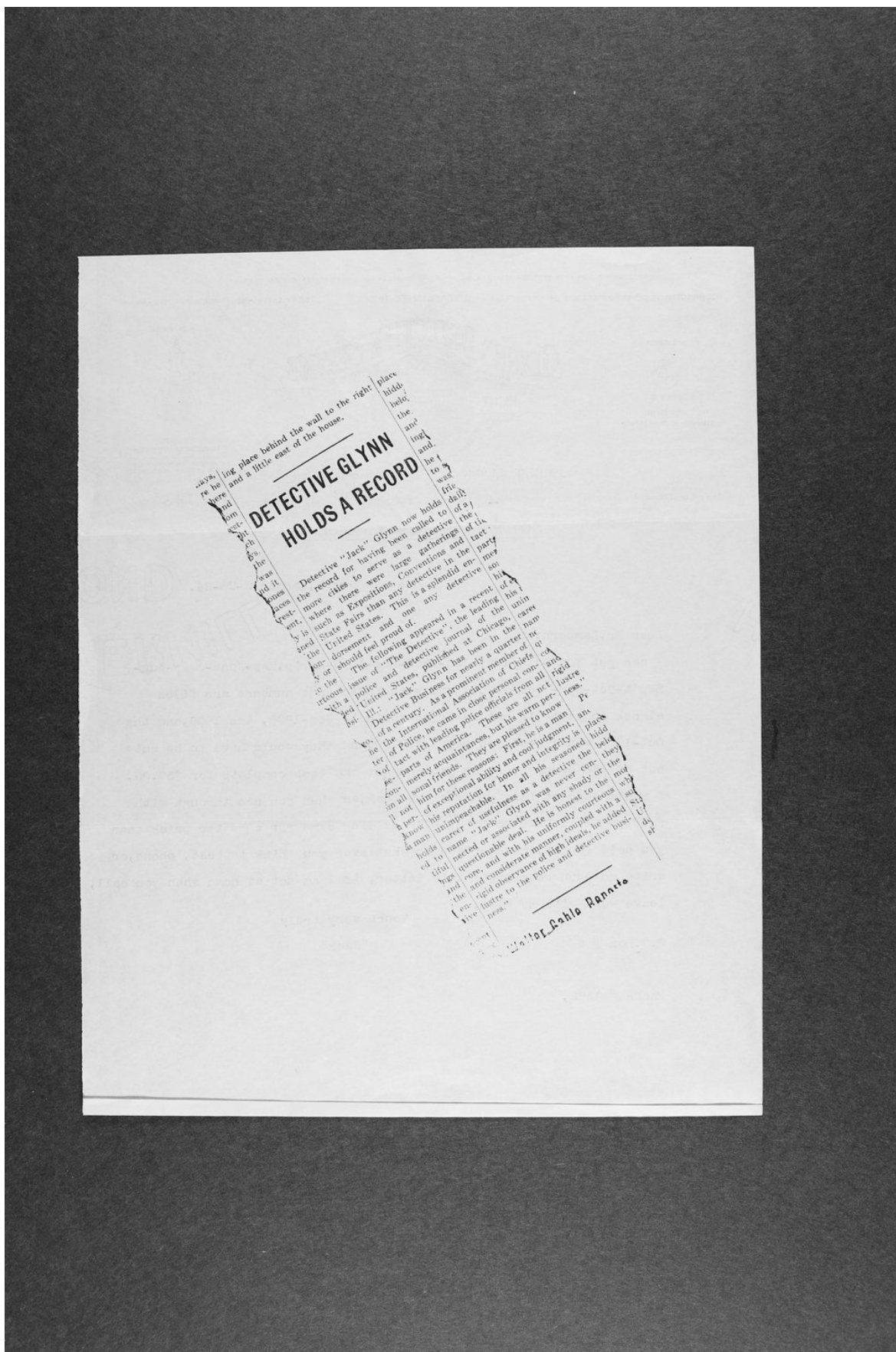




E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



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[Gordon]
Stilwell Okla.
Oct. 28, 1915
Kind Sir
your letter
received to day
asking about the book
that Henry Slaw wrote
yes I have lots of the
books I am Henry's
Mother I sell the
books for 50 cents apiece
if you want one
Send me 50 cts and
I will send one by
mail would be glad
if you could sell
some books for me
I will pay you a

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2
good commission
when you write me.
tell me if you will
handle the books and
how many and I will
send you the same
Mary C. Gordon

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Stilwell Okla.
Oct. 30, 1915
Dear friend
your
letter received today
am sending you
the Books I and
will be glad if you
can sell more for
me I will allow you
15-cents for each book
you sell and I will
send them too you
when you tell me
how many you think
you can handle then
when you sell them
you can send me my

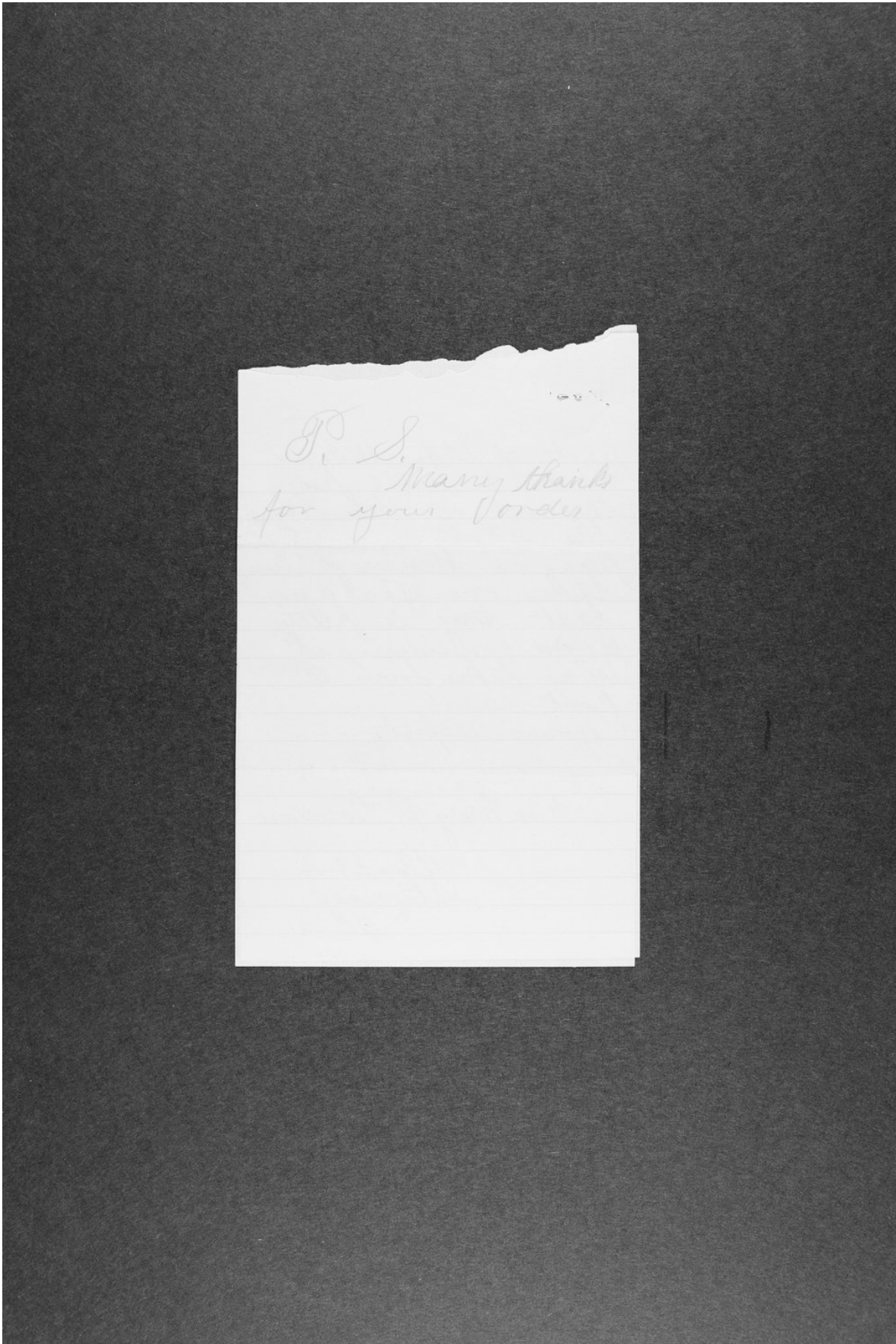
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2

part of the money
and I will pay
the cost of mailing
the photo and list
page is Henry's picture
taken one year ago
last May its pretty
good considering it
was taken from a
post card
yours respect.

Mrs May E. Gordon
Box 27-14
Stilwell
Okla.

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P. S.
Many thanks
for your order

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

1058

AMERICAN RAILWAY EXPRESS CO.
CENTRAL PACIFIC DEPARTMENT
619 MCCORMICK BLDG.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

W. J. GRIFFITH
SPECIAL AGENT

February 21 1925

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kan.

Dear Sir:-

I am sorry that my files do not contain any of the photographs mentioned in your letter of the 13th.

William Carlisle is confined in the Wyoming State Prison at Rawlins and a request to the Warden should provide you with his picture and a summary of Carlisle's record.

Ben Hewitt, Special officer, U. P. R.R., Cheyenne, is a Veteran officer who is familiar with several gangs operating through Wyoming in former years, may be of assistance.

Mr. C. Cain, Special Agent in Charge, Am Ry Exp Co., San Francisco, is also in possession of the photographs of many old time bandits - including the Butch Cassidy,

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Howard - with whom Curry and Logan, I believe,
were associated.

M J McClement, Chief Special Agent, L.A. & S.L. Ry,
Los Angeles, ~~shot~~ shot Carlisle once and is
doubtless very familiar with his exploits.

I have mentioned these officers as all are
better able to assist you than I am.

Your book should be very interesting and
when completed I should like to buy a
copy.

Yours truly,

W J Griffith

7/24/25

SpL by h

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[GUYER]

June 2, 1921.

Mr. E.P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas,
R.R.2.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of May 30, 1921.

In reply I may say that I do not know of a certainty where you might obtain any photograph or other picture of Tom (Black Jack) Ketchum. Carl Eklund of Clayton, New Mexico, had a large one which hung in his saloon for a long time. You might write him concerning the matter of the photograph. I do not know whether Carl's photograph was taken the day Tom was hung or before that time. My recollection is that both the Rocky Mountain News, and the Denver Post, both published in Denver carried pictures as well as detailed accounts of the hanging. You might also write them about the matter.

Salome Garcia, the sheriff who hung Tom Ketchum, still lives in Union County, New Mexico, and I think his P.O. address is Pasamonte, New Mexico.

I heard most of the evidence in that trial and can say of my own opinion that it was not at all conclusive for the evidence did not so convict him. There was not a witness of the prosecution who could identify him as the man who was attempting to hold up the train, though every one, except Frank Harrington the conductor of the train, swore that he was the identical person. I saw Tom Ketchum in the hotel at Folsom the morning after he was shot and captured and talked with him while the doctor was dressing his wound which was in the arm. He was of fine physique and build, had a long, flowing black beard which reached nearly to his waist. I saw him in broad daylight. He was taken on to Trinidad, Colorado, where his arm was amputated. From Trinidad, he was taken to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and placed in the penitentiary until his trial. The authorities were afraid that he would be rescued if confined in any county jail. That is the reason he was taken to the state penitentiary. I also saw him on the day of his trial, and when he stood up to be identified by the prosecuting witnesses I could not, and would not, have sworn that he was the same identical person that I had seen in the hotel at Folsom. These witnesses saw him only in the dark, yet they swore that he was the same person who attempted to hold up the train. However, Frank Harrington, the conductor would not say that the man who stood up to be identified was the man he shot with the double-barrelled shotgun.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

GEORGE W. GUYER
ABSTRACTER
CLAYTON, NEW MEXICO

While there is no doubt that Tom was the man who attempted to hold up that train, yet it was never conclusively proven beyond a reasonable doubt, according to my own weight of the testimony before the jury, that he was the man. Of all the outrages against common decency and humanity that have ever occurred in the State of New Mexico (Territory then) the execution of Tom Ketchum for such a crime is about the meanest. And all because it happened to be a railroad and express corporation against whom the crime was committed. In this state, and that law has never been changed, it is a capital crime to attempt to hold up a train, merely to attempt it. A bandit can hold up a person and rob him of every dollar he has in the world, and it must be proven that he actually committed such a crime before the perpetrator can be sentenced to a term in prison, and is not a capital offense unless he actually takes human life in connection with the robbery. But a railroad and express corporation are specially privileged and protected institutions. The penalty imposed upon Tom Ketchum was far more than any the federal government could impose.

Tom Ketchum was merely a product of the system of society. There are thousands of Tom Ketchums in the social system of the United States today and they are of such scientific force as to make the bandits of Tom's type look like cavemen. They have backed the Daltons, Ketchums, Jameses and Youngers clear off the map of banditry. And the end is not yet. The social system of the world is reaping just what it has sown. "As ye sow, so shall ye reap," is being thoroughly demonstrated in the world today. The bandits of society are the unorganized butchers or reapers of what society has been sowing in the form of organized butchery by governments that drive men into war as was done in the late great war. Tom Ketchum and his gang, as were the Daltons, Jameses, and Youngers, were simply overpowered and crushed by a more powerful gang of legally privileged bandits than they happened to be—that is all.

I cannot see what good a book, detailing the story of the lives of such characters, can do unless there is clearly shown between the lines the vileness of the institutions which breed, foster and support such characters, all of whom, it must be admitted, were men of powerful impulses that would have been useful to society had society had the good sense to have had a system that could have utilized such powers by divine direction instead of blunting divinity of humanity by misdirection and attempted suppression of human forces that will not be suppressed.

However, if you write and publish your book I should like to have a copy, and will render you any assistance I can with pleasure. I am,

Sincerely,

George W. Guyer

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

JOHN R. GUYER
LAWYER
423 STATE NAT'L BANK BLDG.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

March 10-1917.

E.P. Lamborn, Esq.,
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of March 1st, just received--delayed on account of incomplete address. Yes, I defended "Black Jack", whose real name was Tom Ketchum, at Clayton New Mexico in the year 1899 or 1900, I've really forgotten which. I do not understand what object you can have in seeking the information you ask for, but can see no reason why I should not give it to you. The party you wrote at Clayton, Goldie G. Thompson, is my niece. Her husband is named H.C. Thompson. Now, I will answer your questions in narrative form, as best I remember.

Tom Ketchum was a fair skinned, brown haired, gray eyed whiteman of powerful physique. Weighed at the time of his execution 225 pounds, was hanged at Clayton, New Mexico. Don't remember the date. The rope cut his head off, clean and smooth, his head falling to one side and the rope bounding back through the trap, alighted on the scaffold. He was an outlaw about five years that we knew of. He had a brother named Sam who was wounded in a fight with officers at Turkey Creek canyon in which Sheriff Farr, of Walsenburg, Colo. was killed, Sam being afterwards captured in a house not far from the scene with one arm badly shot to pieces, from which wound he died a short time later of blood poison in Santa Fe penitentiary, New Mexico, where he was confined for safe keeping. Tom was not in this fight. He never gave much of a history of his doings and comparatively little was known of his operations. In the fight at Turkey Creek there three men, Sam Ketchum, a man named McDaniel and another man whose name I do not remember. These two men were defended by A.A. Jones, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior in Pres. Wilson's cabinet, now U.S. Senator from New Mexico. His address is Las Vegas, N.M. (E. Las Vegas), when at home. We never knew who, if any one, was with Tom the night he held up the Colo. & Southern R'y train at Twin Mountains, New Mex.

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JOHN R. GUYER
LAWYER
423 STATE NAT'L BANK BLDG.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
(2)

at which time his right arm was shot off by Frank Harrington, conductor of the train. Nobody appeared on the scene except Tom and if he had a confederate, which we always believed he did, his partner was farther ahead with the horses, waiting for Tom to bring the engine and express car to where he was stationed.

On the morning following the attempted robbery at night, a sheriff's posse on a freight train from Clayton, New Mex., approaching the scene of the robbery, saw a man about six or eight hundred yards out in the prairie, motioning to them with his hat. Stopping the train they approached the person, who was sitting down on the ground, and were asked to approach and give aid. Upon nearer approach, the man was found to be badly wounded and very weak from loss of blood. He was taken to Folsom, New Mex. on the freight train, then on the same day to the hospital at Trinidad Colo., where his arm was amputated, and where, when convalescing he attempted to commit suicide by tearing the bandages from his arm and re-opening his wound. After wards, he was taken to the penitentiary at Santa Fe, New Mex., for safe keeping, kept there for 14 months, brought to Clayton in an armored car, tried, (or rather kangarooed), and afterwards hanged. The name of the sheriff to whom he surrendered was Saturnino Pinard, Sheriff of Union County, New Mexico.

I was with him until thirty minutes before he was executed, but refused to see him die. I know nothing about any other train or bank robberies in which he was engaged. If any books on his life have ever been written, I know nothing about it. He had a brother named Berry Ketchum, near San Angelo Texas, in the cattle business.

Now, you have all the information that I can think of. Will you tell me what you want with it-?

Yours Truly,

John R. Guyer

Dic.V-JRG

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

J. C. HANCOCK
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER. NOTARY PUBLIC.
PARADISE, COCHISE CO., ARIZONA
August 23rd, 1936.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kans.

Dear Mr. Lamborn--

Your interesting letter of August 10th was duly received; was glad to hear from you again.

In reply will state that Alvord was the only one that I personally knew. I think he died in the West Indies. I only knew Matt Burts by sight. All of those fellows were just a bunch of cheap outlaws, just the same as the Jameses and Youngers were. They could rob a little store or postoffice or something of that kind and get away with it, but when it came to something big they made a failure of it. They were not in it with Curley Bill, John Ringo and many other old time rustlers that operated along the Mexico line in the '80's. These men would raid into old Mexico and run out a bunch of cattle which they could sell as soon as they got them on this side of the line, and no questions asked it was risky business as they nearly always had to fight their way out, and many of them never got out. Their unmarked graves still dot the Mexican boundary. The Owens brothers seem to have dropped out of sight when they got out of the pen. Matt Burts was killed in California. Bill Downing was another over rated outlaw. There is no truth in the statement that he was Frank Jackson of the Sam Bass gang.

A cattleman by the name of Joe Hunt has the old Slaughter ranch leased, but the estate still belongs to the Slaughter family. Old John was a pretty hard old case and from reports that I have heard was not always on the square. I knew Bill Hildreth when he worked for the San Simon Cattle Co. Never heard that he was in any ways conspicuous for his bravery. Never heard of this Connie Slaughter, so don't know if he was any ways related to old John or not. I was acquainted with George Scarborough, but his son Ed was no good.

This "Apache Agent" book is just a re-hash of the stuff that old John F. Clum used to put out about when he was Indian agent at San Carlos in 1874. He had a fool idea in his head that he could handle Indians independent of the troops. He made such a bungle of the whole affair that the troops had to take a hand and get him out of the mess he had gotten into. He was just a chuckle-headed Dutchman with a bad case of the swell head. The Indian agents were the principal cause of most of our troubles with the Indians. They used to steal the rations and other supplies that the Government sent out for the Indians and sell the stuff in Tucson, Globe and other places and put the money in their own pockets. There is one instance on record where an Indian agent used to issue a cup of flour and a small chunk of beef to a family of Indians as rations for a week. No wonder the Indians left the Reservation, and when they did they were supposed to be on the war-path and the troops were sent after them. General Crook was the only officer who could handle Indians successfully; see "On the Border with Crook," by Major John Bourke. He has something to say about Indian Agents. Also get a copy of the Brewery Gulch Gazette, Bisbee, Arizona, of the issue of June 25th. It has a write-up on Clum by H. L. (Pat) Hayhurst, commenting on this new book, also copy of August 20th in which I back up Hayhurst.

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Lamborn-page 2-8/23/36.

I don't think Earle R. Forrest is wholly reliable as a historian. I have a circular of his advertising his book, "California Joe," in which he states that Kit Carson and Joe were in the Adobe Walls fight in which some buffalo hunters stood off the Comanches and Kiowas. Now I have the names of all that were in that fight and their names are not mentioned as having been there. Many of these writers are writing this stuff just to sell, like "Tombstone" by Walter Noble Burns and "Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal," by Stuart N. Lake. Some of the statements made in those books are so silly that they are ridiculous. It is the opinion of many of the old timers that were here at the time, that Wyatt Earp paid both Burns and Lake to write him up as a great hero and also slander the reputation of Johnny Behan as much as they could. Clum was another Wyatt Earp admirer. They are still "sore" because Behan got the ~~appt~~ appointment as sheriff over Earp when Cochise County was cut off of Pima county. This Lincoln Ellsworth who poses as an explorer, seems to be a strong partisan of Earp's and sucks down that silly twaddle that is put out by Burns, Lake and others in favor of Earp. You have a fellow up in your part of the country by the name of Fred Sutton that is trying to pose as an authority on Western characters and also create the impression that he was a great friend of "Teddy" Roosevelt. Mr. Sutton sure go a "calling down" from ex-governor Miguel A. Otero, 354 Palace Ave., Santa Fe, New Mexico, The article appeared in the Tombstone Epitaph, Aug. 6th of this year. Lake says that Wyatt Earp followed young Jim Kennedy and arrested him at the Cimmaron crossing for the killing of Dora Hand. Earp did not follow Kennedy as he did not know the country. It was Bat Masterson, Charley Bassett and Bill Tighlman who caught him at the crossing. Also that story that Wyatt told Burns and Lake about how he walked up on Curley Bill and shot him down with a shot-gun is all "rot." Wyatt never saw the day that he dared face Curley Bill or any other one of those old Rustlers, besides Curley Bill was not in that section of the country at the time that Wyatt claims to have killed him. John Slaughter met and talked with Curley Bill down in old Mexico after Wyatt made up this lie about killing Bill. I was living right here in this country when all this way taking place and knew nearly all of those characters. I notice one thing, none of this stuff was ever published until some time after Johnnie Behan's death; they dared not publish it while he was alive. Another thing, I notice that none of these books publish the testimony of the witnesses at the time the Earp crowd murdered Billy Clanton and the McLowrys. They only give Wyatt's statement, and the old Judge was a friend of the Earp's and let them go. None of these writers ever mention Wyatt Earp's first wife, Lattie. He used to abuse her shamefully and make her go into the dance halls and make money for him. She carried a scar over her right eyebrow where he hit her with a six-shooter. The poor girl finally left him and died in San Francisco many years ago. I have no objection to Burns and Lake, or any other writer peddling out this stuff as fiction and call it fiction, but when they claim it as authentic history and sell themselves to a man like Wyatt Earp and use their pens to slander the reputation of another man simply because Wyatt wants him vilified, and in my opinion accepts pay for it, is a dirty low-down trick which no gentleman would stoop to.

I am sorry I cannot get you those photographs, but would advise that you write Mr. N. H. Rose, box 463, San Antonio, Texas, who is a specialist in that line. Do not let any one sell you photos of Curley Bill or John Ringo as there are none in existence.

Sincerely yours

J. C. Hancock
J. C. Hancock.

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

J. C. HANCOCK

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER. NOTARY PUBLIC.

PARADISE, COCHISE CO., ARIZONA

June 6th, 1935.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kans.

Dear Mr. Lamborn--

In answer to your very interesting letter I will state that I was personally acquainted with Bert Alvord. It was reported that he was killed by Sheriff Del Lewis at Fairbanks, Arizona, while he and some of his outfit was trying to hold up a train. Other reports say that he ~~that he~~ went to Jamaica where he died a few years later. I do not know which report is true but think it is more than likely that he went to Jamaica. He did not take part in the S. P. train hold-up between Willcox and Cochise, although he probably knew that it was going to happen. The train was held up by Grant Wheeler and Joe George. They blew the safe open by stacking bags of Mexican dollars on top of the giant powder they used to blow the safe open. I was in Willcox that evening and heard the blasts and seen the car when it was backed down to Willcox. It was pretty badly wrecked where the safe stood. I knew Grant Wheeler. The boys got fooled and took a lot of what they supposed was bundles of currency but most of it turned out to be lottery tickets that was going through by express. They also overlooked some gold that was packed in sacks in the safe. Grant was supposed to have been killed by a sheriff's posse somewhere up in Colorado. I have also heard on pretty good authority that John Slaughter claimed that he had seen and talked with Grant down in old Mexico. If Slaughter said that then that would be the true account as Slaughter knew Grant and would know. No one seems to know what became of George. One report has it that Wheeler killed him after they had made their get away, and took his share of the money.

No one seems to know the exact date of when Billy Stiles was killed in Goldfield, Nevada, but it must have been in the later part of 1900, it was in April 1900, that he shot and wounded Geo. Bravin the jailor in Tombstone. He locked Bravin in one of the cells, took the keys and released the rest of the crowd and they all disappeared.

Do not know the exact date of the killing of Storms by Luke Short anymore than it was in the spring of 1881. No one seems to know what became of him.

Much has been written about the Phy-Gabriel duel. The best account that I have is from a man by the name of Rice who claims to have been with Gabriel at the time. In a letter written by him, he says, "The morning prior to the fight, Pete Gabriel and myself left Riverside station on the Gila, 25 miles east of Florence, arriving in Florence before sundown. We had some liquor in the buggy from which Pete frequently indulged, so when we arrived in Florence I tried to get him to go to bed. We occupied a cabin together in Florence. He was finally persuaded to go with me to the cabin and he went to bed. Leaving him there I drove the team to Hank Martin's ranch about a half mile from town. The Martin family was at supper when I arrived there and I was invited to join them. After supper I walked back to town and arrived in front of the Brewery Saloon, about 150 yards from the front of Keating's Tunnel saloon, when I was startled by a series of pistol shots. Rushing to the scene of the shooting, I bucked right up against the two men as they backed out on the sidewalk both clinched with their guns stuck into each other's stomach. I know that four shots were fired before Phy released his hold on Gabriel and

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dropped into the gutter of running water along the sidewalk. I then approached Gabriel, caught him by the arms and led him off toward the hotel. I asked him if he was badly hit. His reply was as always with him, brief, "yes," he said, "he got me bad." A few steps further he collapsed to the sidewalk. Some people came forward, a cot was produced and he was carried to the sheriff's office. Phyllis was picked up and carried to a barber shop where he died before Dr. Harvey could render him any assistance. What occurred inside the saloon I can only relate from Peter R. Brady's statement at the coroner's inquest. The substance according to my recollection was this. The only occupant of the saloon when Gabriel entered was Jack Keating, the bartender behind the bar. Jim Hammel, a rancher, sitting by a table in the rear of the saloon, and he went out the back door as soon as the shooting started and could render no accurate account of the affair. There was no back room in Keating's saloon, therefore Phyllis was not nor could not have been sitting there, and the battle was in the night time. Truth of the matter was this, when Gabriel entered the saloon he called Brady and Hammel to have a drink; seeing that Gabriel was under the influence of liquor he refused. Pete insisted that Brady join him and as Keating passed out the bottle and glasses, the swinging doors was cast aside and Phyllis with gun in hand entered. Gabriel turned and seeing Phyllis, cried "Joe," and instantly two shots cracked out; they both clinched and backed out onto the sidewalk where the duel ended. Gabriel never backed into a card room. Joe Phyllis was not in the saloon as has been stated in other accounts. No conversation took place between them nor was the blood of either spilled on the saloon floor. Gabriel was not shot twice in the face; all his wounds were through the chest and abdomen. I know because I nursed him and I ought to know. Gabriel never moved to Yuma after the Phyllis affair nor lived there 10 years. He remained in Pinal county up to the time of his death in a stone cabin near Dripping Springs. Rumor had it that he was poisoned by a certain enemy, but it was a false rumor. I was on many trips with Gabriel after his fight with Phyllis and I know his wounds never healed and I can truthfully attest that Gabriel's greatest regret was the death of Joe Phyllis, and I also know and can further attest that ~~that~~ the fight would never have happened were it not for would-be pacifists and tale bearing which added fuel to the flames. So terminated a relationship that for years prior had been amiable and friendly--almost brotherly. I know the real cause of the quarrel and I know that two school boys would not have retained a grudge over so trivial a matter.

I was in Galeyville in 1881 and knew nearly all the old rustlers of those early days. They were never organized as a gang under any one particular leader. All of that stuff that has been written by such writers as Walter Noble Burns, Stuart N. Lake, Lorenzo D. Walters and other such writers, is nothing but a lot of exaggerated "bunk." There is no doubt in my mind but what Wyatt Earp paid both Mr. Burns and Mr. Lake a good sum of money to write him up and make him appear as "an old lion" and all that kind of stuff and also to slur the reputation of Johnny Behan as much as possible. Wyatt had it in for Behan over the appointment of sheriff when Cochise county was cut off from Pima county and took this means to get even after Behan was dead and could not defend himself. They never would have dared print such stuff if Behan had been alive at the time. That supposed stand-off in Tombstone over Johnny-Behind-the-Duce never happened as they relate it. I know because I was there. There was no mob, no shouting or threats no one was armed and no one had a rope. There was no mob followed from Charleston. Johnny was taken down to the O. K. Corral and just an idly curious bunch of "rubber necks" followed on behind. When they got to the corral, a light rig was driven out and Johnny and Wyatt got in and drove off down to Benson. No one tried to stop them and they had no guard of out-riders. The account where Wyatt claims to have walked up on Curley Bill and shot him down with a shot.

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him down with a shot-gun is all "bunk." Curley Bill was not in the country at that time. Wyatt also claims that Curley Bill shot at him with a shot-gun but missed him. That is not so because those boys never carried shot-guns. They carried the 45/60 Winchester carbine as a general thing or some times the 45/70 Government Springfield carbine if they could get one--they were rather hard to get as they were the ones used by the Government and issued to the soldiers. The boys carried the old 45 Colt single action six-shooter and they only carried one. All of this two gun stuff originated in the movies. In Wyatt's statement of how he shot Curley Bill he states that he had difficulty in getting on his horse and all this time Bill's friends were shooting at him, but says that he escaped unhurt. That seems rather strange to me as all those rustlers were supposed to be crack shots and couldn't hit a man or his horse at a reasonable distance of shot-gun range. The story is so ridiculous that it contradicts itself. Wyatt was not the hero of Dodge City and was not with the posse that trailed young Jim Kennedy after he killed Dora Hand. Bat Masterson, Charley Bassett and Billy Tighman were the ones that caught the young fellow at the Cimmaron crossing. Wyatt was just an ordinary peace officer in Dodge City. The Earp record is not very clean in Tombstone, and I have heard it strongly hinted that they were mixed up in the stage hold-ups between Tombstone and Benson and that they tried to throw the blame on the rustlers. That is supposed to have caused the killing of the Clanton-McLowry boys. These boys knew too much and they had to be got out of the way so they framed the job and killed the three boys and made the statement that they killed them in self defense and that they resisted arrest. The boys did not resist arrest and one of them (Tom McLowry) was not armed. The other two had their six-shooters on and their horses saddled and were just about to leave camp when the Earp crowd appeared. If those boys had intended to shoot any of the Earp crowd on sight as Wyatt claimed they did at the preliminary trial before old Judge Spicer, why did those boys let the Earp crowd walk up on them and open fire when the three boys could have got the rifles out of the scabbards on the horses and opened fire on the Earp crowd before they got up within six-shooter range. That proves to me that it was a put-up job to get those boys out of the way. Col. "Billy" Breckenridge in his "Hellorado" is the only one that give all the testimony of the witnesses at the preliminary trial of Wyatt and Doc Holliday before Judge Spicer. All the others side step it because the testimony is strong enough to warrant any Justice of the Peace to bind the defendants over to the grand jury, which Judge Spicer did not do. It was afterwards claimed that he (Spicer) was a strong partisan of the Earp crowd. How any one can believe such stuff as Burns and Lake have written is something I cannot understand and many believe this is an authentic history of those days when ~~it is~~ not and ~~was~~ only written for commercial profit and to put money in their own pockets. This history does not belong to them. It belongs to us old timers who made it and I resent all such stuff written by these modern writers and then foisted upon the public as authentic history. If they want to write fiction that is all right, but let it be labeled and sent out as fiction, not as history.

I knew Geo. Scarborough and know where he was killed. I did not know any of the Black Jack gangs but heard of them. They were just a bunch of cheap outlaws. They would hold up a little store or a postoffice but they failed on anything big. Nothing like the old time rustlers were. They used to raid across the line in old Mexico and drive a bunch of cattle across the line. Bert Cogswell is an old time friend of mine. The last I heard of him was that he was somewhere in Kansas. Old Bill Lutley is still living in Tombstone. I have written many of my reminiscences in the past few years. Most of them were published in the Tombstone Epitaph, some in the Brewery Gulch Gazette Bisbee, Ariz., and some a few years ago in the El Paso Herald.

I am glad to have heard from you and hope you will write me again.

Yours sincerely, *E. P. Lamborn* will again favor