

Kansas Memory



E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Section 48, Pages 1411 - 1440

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

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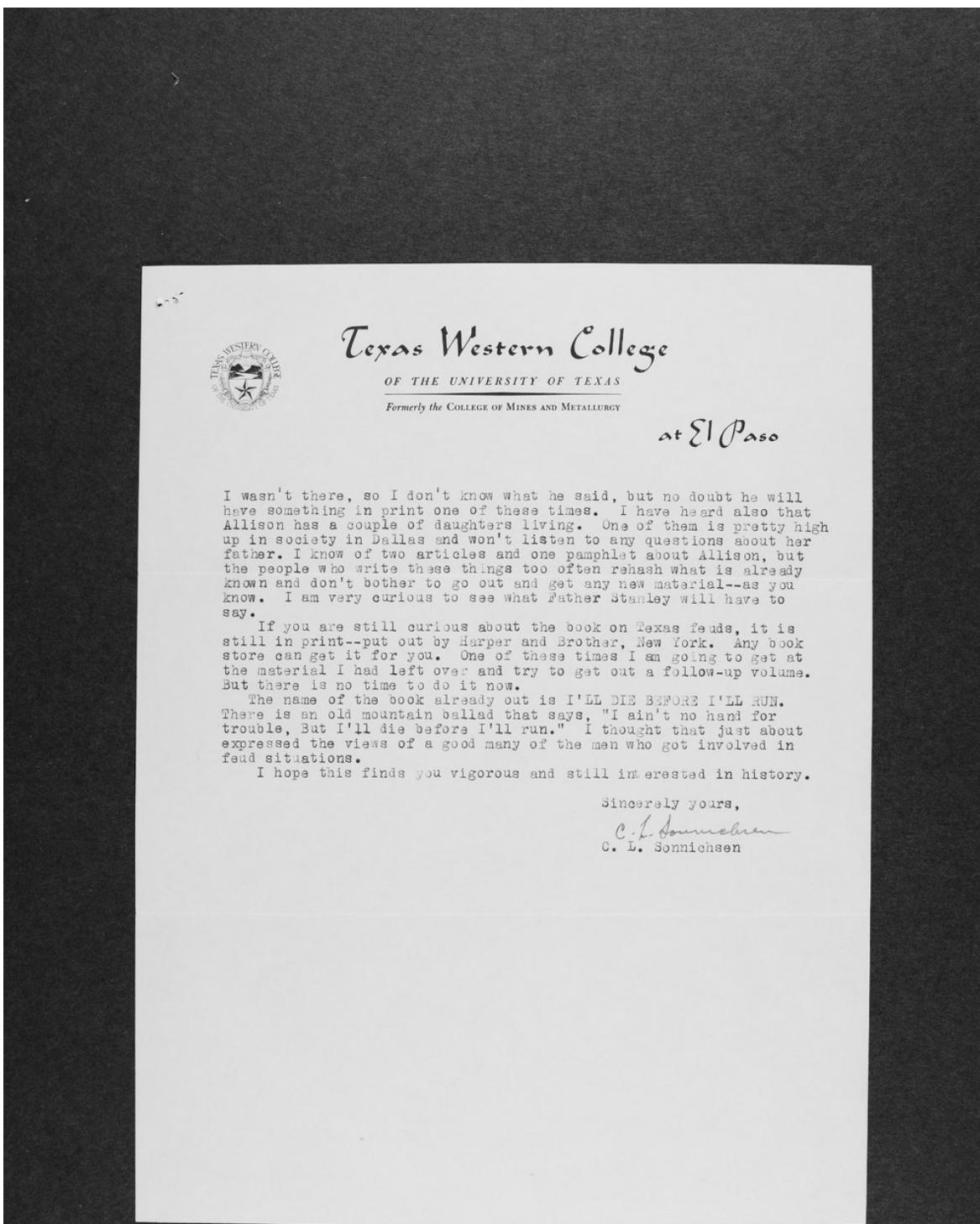
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Texas Western College

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Formerly the COLLEGE OF MINES AND METALLURGY

at El Paso

I wasn't there, so I don't know what he said, but no doubt he will have something in print one of these times. I have heard also that Allison has a couple of daughters living. One of them is pretty high up in society in Dallas and won't listen to any questions about her father. I know of two articles and one pamphlet about Allison, but the people who write these things too often rehash what is already known and don't bother to go out and get any new material--as you know. I am very curious to see what Father Stanley will have to say.

If you are still curious about the book on Texas feuds, it is still in print--put out by Harper and Brothers, New York. Any book store can get it for you. One of these times I am going to get at the material I had left over and try to get out a follow-up volume. But there is no time to do it now.

The name of the book already out is I'LL DIE BEFORE I'LL RUN. There is an old mountain ballad that says, "I ain't no hand for trouble, But I'll die before I'll run." I thought that just about expressed the views of a good many of the men who got involved in feud situations.

I hope this finds you vigorous and still interested in history.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Sonnichsen
C. L. Sonnichsen

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1328 Cincinnati St.
El Paso, Texas
February 15, 1953

Dear Mr. Lamborn,

Thank you very much for your kind letter and the information. I am hastening to return the two pages from Swings book. I've been fighting the flu for two days and am just about to give up and go to bed — so I want to be sure you get your pages back before I pull the covers up under my chin.

Best regards to you — and thanks again!

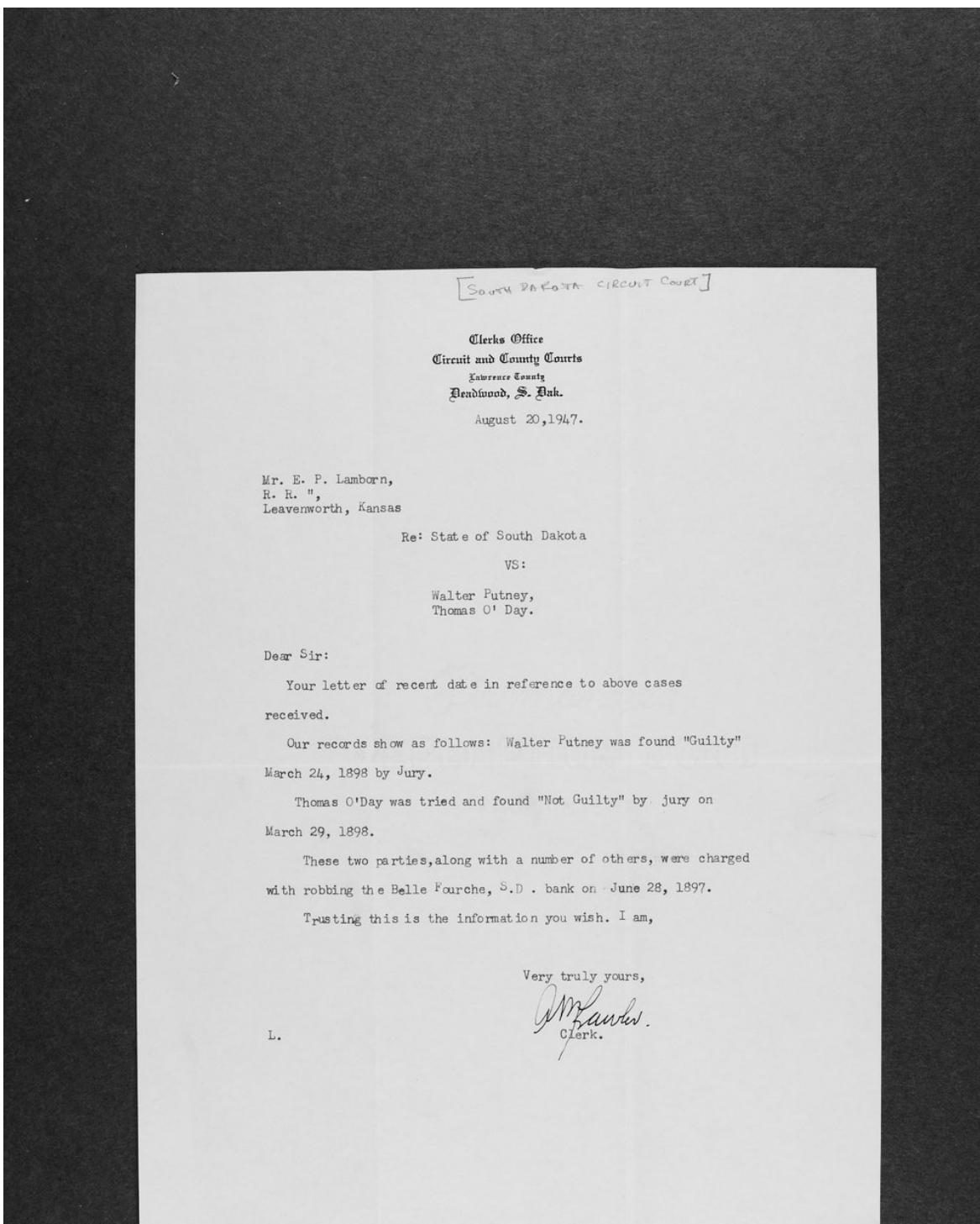
Sincerely yours,
C. L. Fournier

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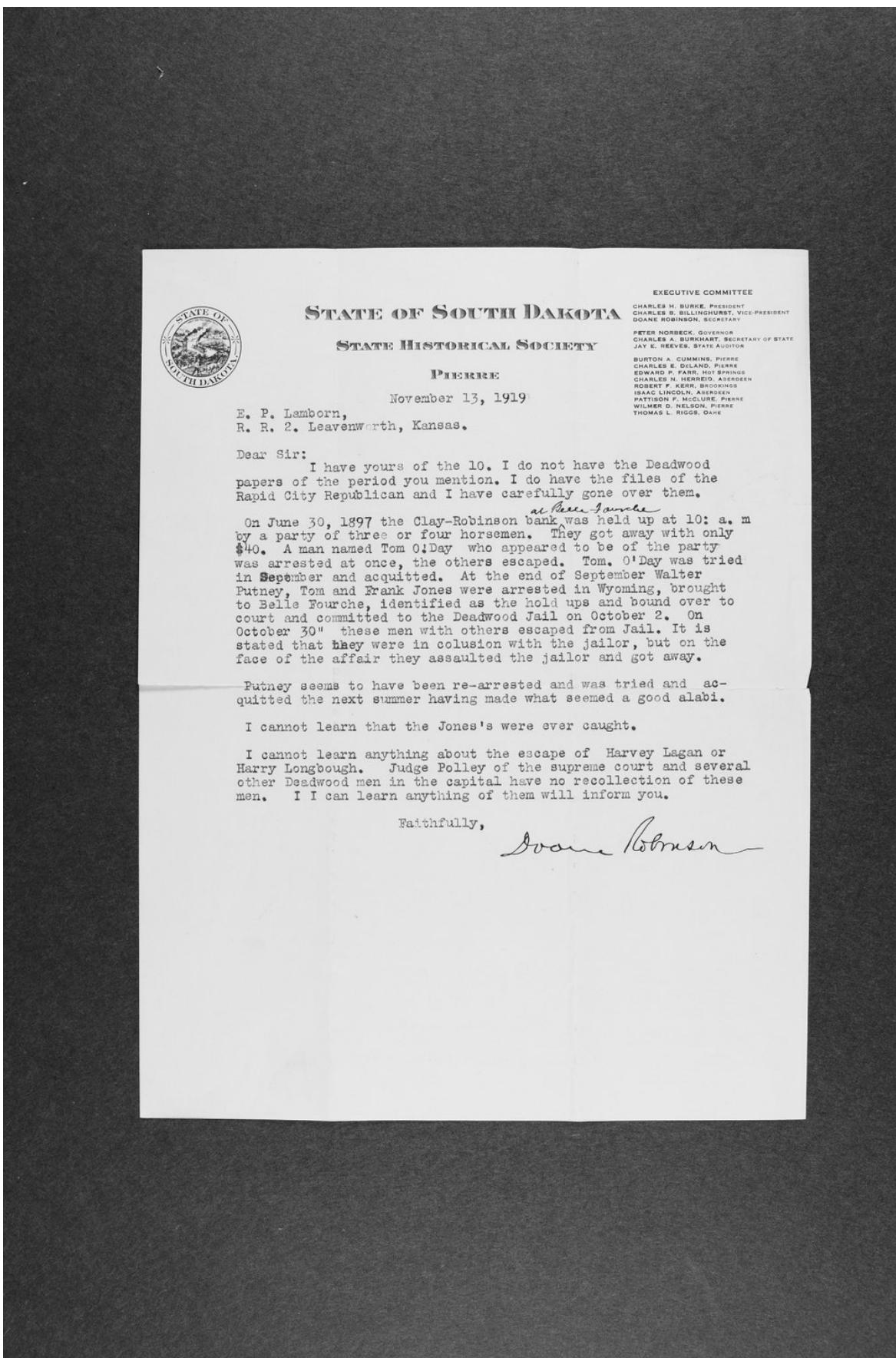


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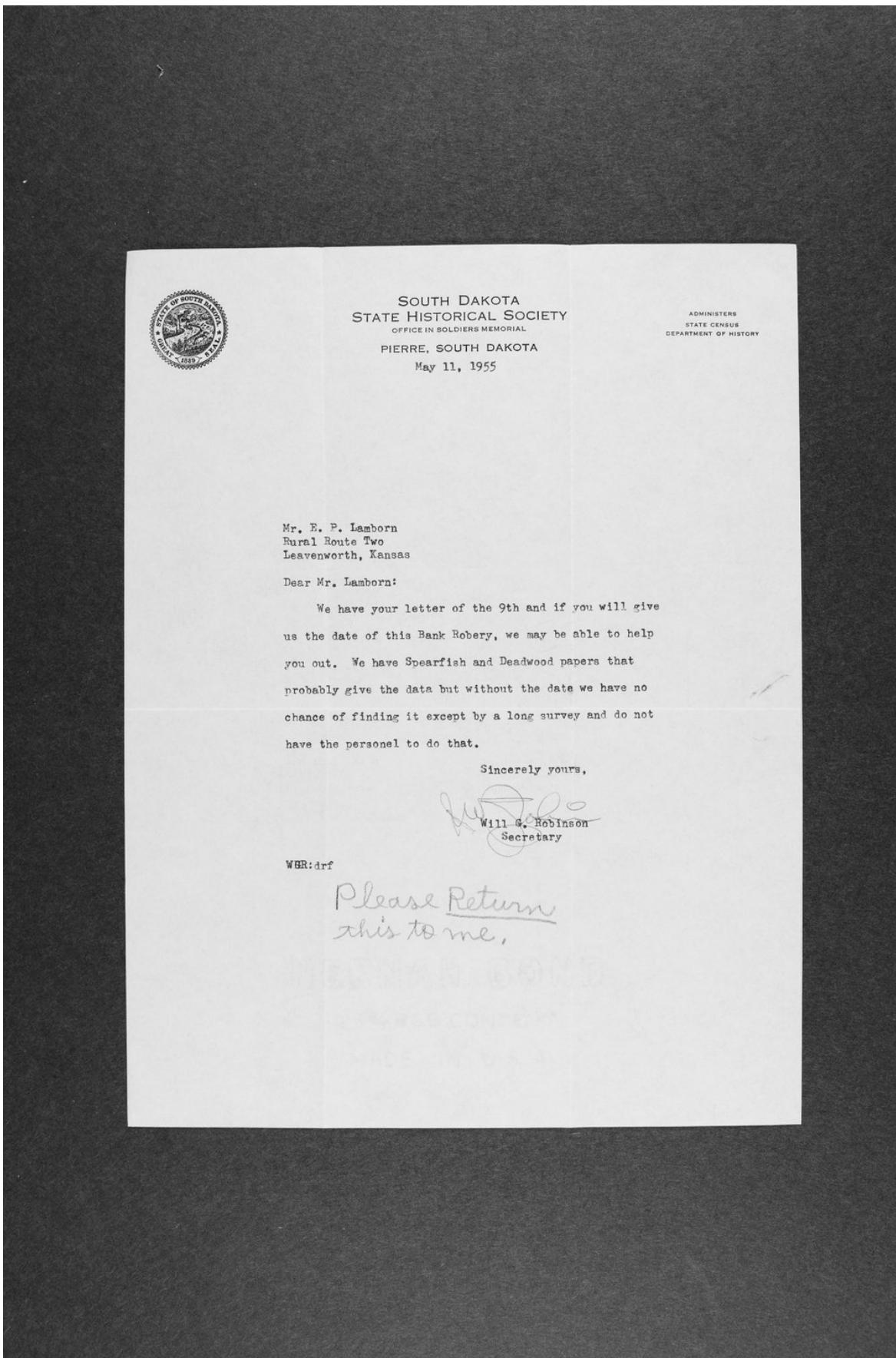


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Center Point Ky. Oct 3^d 1920
Mr. E P Lamborn
Leavenworth
Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter which I finally received I will say that the Texas Ranger book which I wrote are all gone many years ago. The last I knew of any of them Charley Smith of San Antonio had two which he asked \$5. apiece for. I sold them at \$1.50 when I had them. I do not know anything of the Jennings book or any sketches of Sam Bass.

Yours truly
A J Sonwill

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

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to T. J. Sparkes has been referred to us for attention. In turn, we would suggest that you write to the State Historian, the Capitol, Phoenix, Arizona for it is barely possible that the photographs you desire may be located through him.

Sincerely,


Secy.



This is the Great Country of Northern Arizona--The Land of the Outdoor Life

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Winter, 204,
10/26/27

Mr. E.P. Lamborn
Leavenworth, Kas.

Mr. Dear Sir:

I am collecting Outlaws
pictures and have a very good
collection - But there are some
I have not got.
A friend of mine Mr. Marvin -
Hunter of Bandera, Tex. (who is
Editor of the "Frontier Times,"
a Western magazine published
(by him)

He gave me your name and
said probably I could get
some outlaw photos from
you if you had what I wanted.
I want the following pictures
if you can get them the
names are on the opposite
side of this letter. Please write
me and give me a list of
pictures you have for sale
& price - Have you any pictures
of Indian Chiefs - Rangers
Sheriffs - of by gone days
for sale

Runnells Co.

Rept. H.M. Sparks
Nov 6/1

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List of Outlaw photos
you want are as follows

Emmett Dalton

The Buck Gang (of Okla 4 on photo)
Hung in Little Rock Ark.

Bill Doolin - of Okla

Dave shade (of California or Arizona)

John Wesley Hardin (of Texas)

Rube Barrows { of Alabama

Jim Barrows "

Al Jennings - of Okla

Al Spencer - of Okla

Matthew Kicca - of Okla

Rever Jake

John Dillman

George Scarborough

Jose James a 18 yrs of age photo
& many others you have that &
have not & would like to buy

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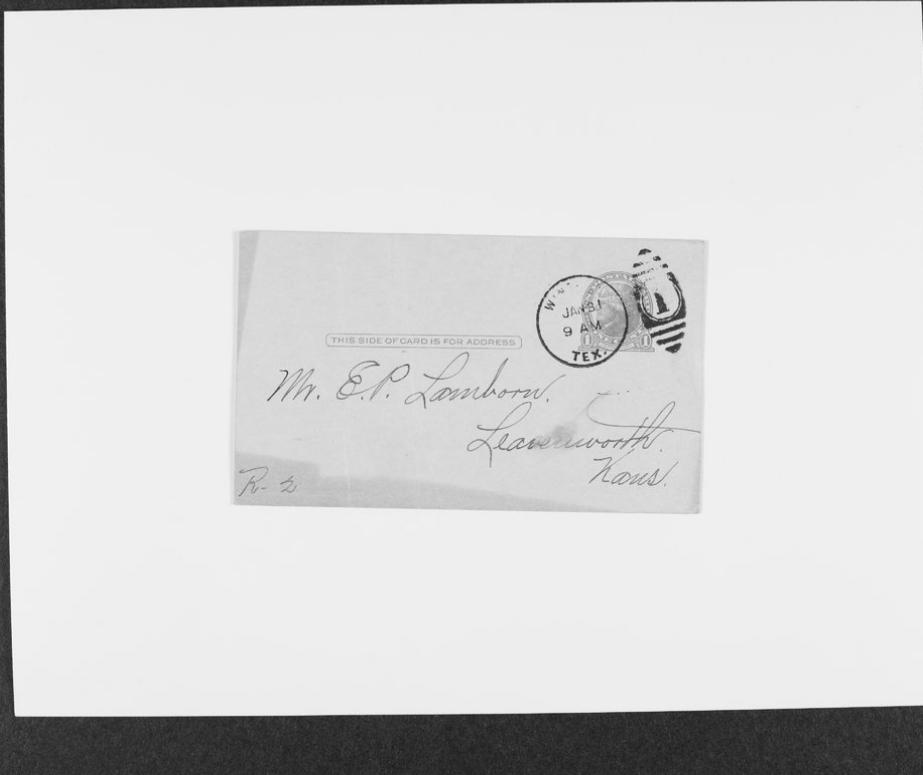
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Dear Sir - 11-28-¹⁸84
I Have a Collection of Pictures & Books.
one Book published 1783 - another 1814 - or
Would you care to exchange pictures for some
you Have not. & I Have a Collection of Battle
Siegels - Cannon - & the like &c &c
& I Have Minie Balls found on Battlefield
of Shiloh Ga also from Chattanooga Tenn.
& will trade for pictures of old time Gun-
men that I Have not got, & want Bill Starn-
Bass Cutler - George Washington - Gen. Holiday &
Matt Early. Have you any also Henry Starr -
& will trade for any of them & others & hope
you - Ans soon - Send me your list & I have lots of
things historic to trade - Dept. A.M.SPARKS.
WINTERS TEXAS.

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Dear Sir -
I understand you collect photo-
pictures etc. So I have decided to
write you. I have a collection of around
4 or 5 thousand pictures - Photo - Snap shots -
Post cards etc mostly Historic - Also
Cannons - Outfitters - Ships etc & any I
writing you to see if I can get a list
of yours and to find out if we can
exchange some pictures you may have
some I have not got and I would
like to exchange or buy some from you.
I hope to soon hear from you. Best
A. M. Sparks
1-31-1935 Runnels County, KINTERS, Texas.

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Dear Sir:

Thank you sincerely for your wonderful and commanding the Liberator of New Mexico. I am certain that such comments give me zest to carry on the work of bringing New Mexico history before the public.

As far as Clay Allison is concerned that book will not be ready until December 1954. There are a few more trips I am forced to make to get data for I want the book to be as accurate as possible. It will be the size of Liberator and

Cost \$10.

Again, Thank you.

Sincerely,
F. Stanley

Box 786
Canadian, Texas

May 19-1954.

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F. Stanley -- Box 786 -- Canadian, Texas

April 16, 1955

Dear Mr. Lamborn:

Thank you very much for your card inquiring about Clay Allison. I have not quite finished gathering facts about him. I have been to the place where he grew up, to the different places where he lived, seen some relatives, the place where he died, etc. So it is taking longer than I had hoped.

I would appreciate if you would write concerning some of the Bad Men for I am sure it would add something new. If you know any interesting facts about Clay Allison I'd appreciate having them. I will give you due credit in the book. I want the book to be a complete detailed account of his life and the more new stuff I get the better.

I will hold up doing any more on the book until I hear from you so that if I have to revise I'd rather do it before going to press.

Thanking you for any help, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

F. S. Stanley

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F. Stanley -- Box 456 -- Rotan, Texas

[10-11-56 ?]

Dear Mr. Lamborn:

Thanks for your card inquiring about the Clay Allison book. Your money and order were forwarded to publishers. For some reason either because of text books or paper strike the book binders delayed five weeks. However, I understand that the books should be ready by October 15 - I was supposed to go to Colorado to autograph them but I've been so busy I just can't get away so they are slipping the books to me to autograph then I will mail them out. I appreciate your worry and concern. I think the delay has added ten years on my life. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Rev. F. Stanley.

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Coll.
156:3:9



F. Stanley -- Box 456 -- Rotan, Texas

Dear Friend:

LONGHAIR JIM COURTRIGHT, TWO GUN MARSHAL OF FORT WORTH, will be off the press shortly.

Each copy of this edition numbered and autographed.

A book for the lover of Western Americana, the collector, research student, the writer looking for source material, the university, college, high school, library, home...you.

Courtright's sole living daughter; grand daughter supplied much of the material.

Many photos.

\$5.50 a copy.

People have paid as much for a show, dance, dinner. One can reach for a book-time and again--it is always there--the good investment--to bring back a chapter of America's glorious past.

This is a collector's limited edition.

If interested please advise

First come, first served.

Sincerely,

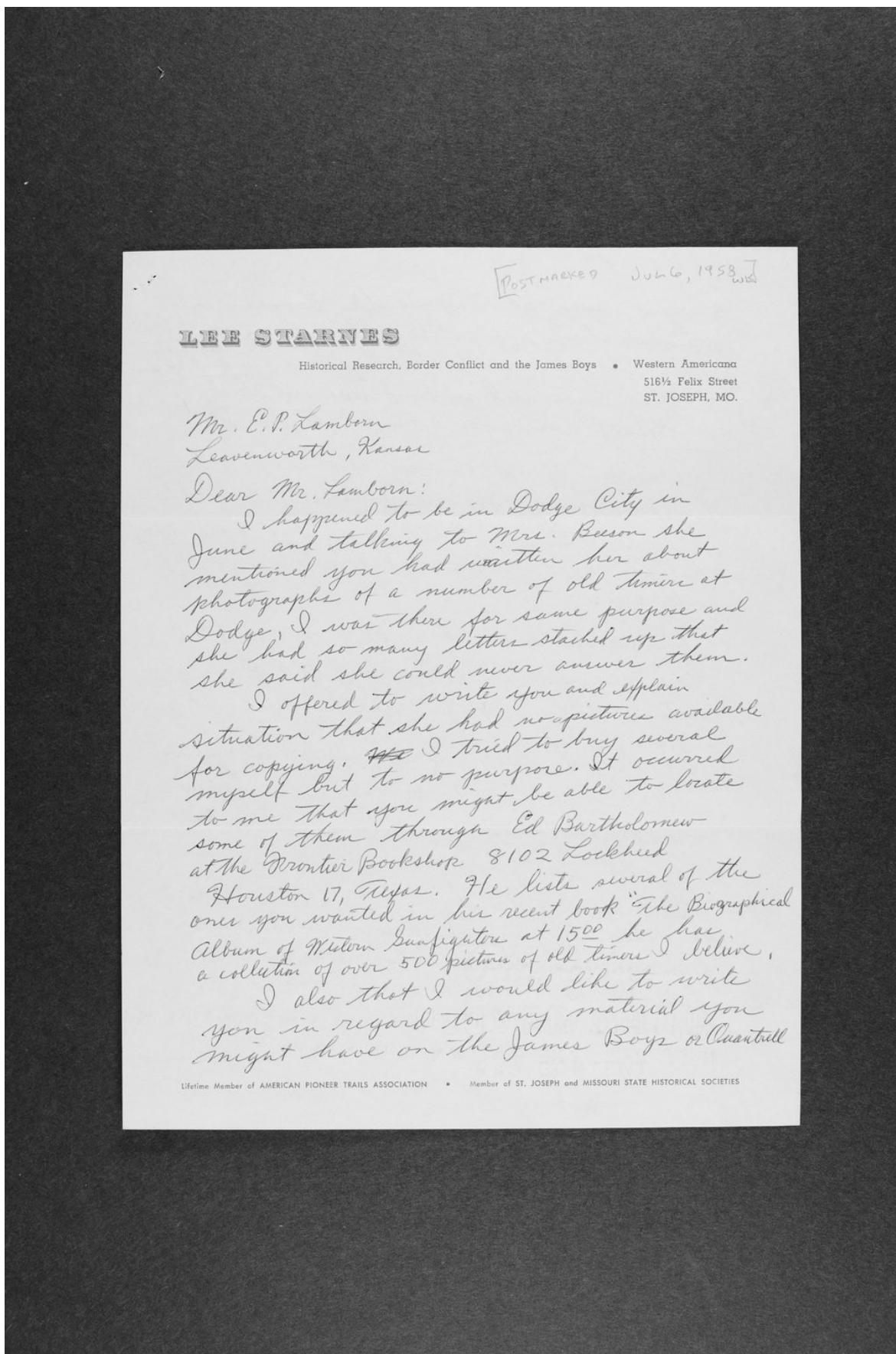
F. Stanley

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- I was born at Leavenworth Kansas in 1905 and have been doing research on the James story for about 15 years. I have been here about 36 years.
- I am interested in any unpublished photos of Jesse you might know of!
- Do you know of any note or letter of Jesse James in possession of collectors or acquaintances? That is in his handwriting that can be more or less proven to be authentic.
- Did you ever hear of a man called the "Kansas Jesse James" that was active before Jesse's death here in St. Joseph?
- Did you ever hear any information that would lead you to believe that Jesse was not killed here in St. Joseph?
- Did you ever hear what you considered an accurate physical description of Jesse from an old timer who actually met him if so. HOW TALL WAS HE?
- DID HE HAVE A PORTION OF A FINGER MISSING?
IF SO, WHICH ONE AND ON WHICH HAND?

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I am planning on checking over a ~~list~~ group of old photographs sometime this month if possible, will let you know if I find anything of interest in regard to the list you were interested in.

I would like to hear from you if you have any information related to the questions asked. I have located considerable material that is new on the James Boys and believe is still good material in the old families to be discovered!

Assuring you of my sincere interest in this matter, I am

Sincerely Yours.

Lee Barnes

P.S. Do you know who J. Frank Dalton actually was? (J. Frank was the last old timer claiming to be Jesse)

Do you take Tone West or Frontier Times magazine published in Texas? over →

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Did you know off Bill Stiles the old timer who died at Leavenworth in the late 30s or early forties who claimed to be a member of the James Gang? If so are any of his relatives living?

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[STARNES,LEE]

St. Joseph Mo.
Dec. 22, 1958

Dear Mr. Lamborn

Thank you for the long letter you were so kind to send me, I enjoyed every bit of it. Yes Lyman Starnes is my father he is retired and lives at Clearmont, ~~Mo.~~ just north of Maryville. John Starnes was my grandfather and I was at his bedside at his death.

I am 52 years old and have about twenty years of research in history back of me, most dealing with the James Boys and the Pony Express. I am personally acquainted with Homer Croy, Ismet, Brichan and have thoroughly read and checked all the books you mentioned. I have around thirty note books filled with new and original material as the result of visiting and interviewing every relative and old timer who knew them that I could get to.

In my opinion after checking all this material and reading all the newspaper in this area that I could get to, there is still a great deal of question as

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To the proper identity of the man killed here as Jesse James. The old timers around Kearney all claim that Jesse was considerable shorter than Frank. The man killed here was the same height.

Jesse had a damaged or missing finger some claim it was the trigger finger on the right hand (first joint missing) others say it was the left trigger finger (the only written description of Jesse pub. in 1881 about a year before the killing says he was 5-8 tall and had the first joint off on his left (trigger finger) or forefinger. (The corpse had the first joint missing on his left middle finger.)

Is it in possible that Emmett Dalton would like to have killed Stiles (fake or not) because he might reveal that Jesse was not killed in St. Joseph or that J. Frank Dalton could possibly have been Frank Dalton the older Dalton brother who was supposed to have been killed in Oklahoma. In my opinion the pictures of the two men look alike!

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See the Album of Gunfighters for pictures
of two men on pages 23 + 27 Page 2

I think that one might locate some interesting material if they could find relatives or friends of the Bill Stiles who died in Leavenworth claiming to be the original. Don't some of the old timers around there remember him?

Do you have any clippings or printed material of early years that deals with Emmett Dalton's brother & Stiles Stiles? Do you have any old clippings on the James Gang or their activities? Do you have any clippings on John James the first imposter (around 1935). I would certainly like to check anything you might have of this sort. (I read the True West article you mentioned good)

Sincerely yours
Lee Starnes

P.S. My father mentioned knowing a Merle

Lamborn. Where did you get your information that

Desse had the first finger off joint off on his left forefinger?

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

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(The body could have been buried in the yard to keep anyone from checking on the size or missing finger later.) (3)

Did you hear the story that Jesse was not killed and attended Frank James funeral from an old time family or someone who could have known what he was talking about?

You know the identity of the body was questioned a great deal at the time of the shooting here and Bob Ford said to the City Marshal "It is either Jesse James or I am mistaken".

Did you ever talk to an old timer who knew Jesse if so what did he have to say about his height? How tall was he compared to Frank?

Mr. Lamborn you might call some of the Stiles listed in Leavenworth Phone Directory (if any and get some information) on Bill Stiles. You might try the old timer who I understood gathered a lot of the Centennial material, I talked to the Librarian at Leavenworth about him but when I called his daughter said he was worn out (I don't remember his name.)

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Note. The article ^{a note} I have on Bill Stiles says that his article appeared in late 1935. He was alive at that time apparently.

St. Joseph, Mo.
Jan. 11, 1959

Dear Mr. Lamborn:

Thanks so much for the many fine suggestions will attempt to follow through on some of them.

So that is your picture on page 147 of Sunfighters and you were doing research at that date 1922. You must have met some interesting old timers who were alive at that time. There are a number of questions I would like to ask you and please answer on page following question this allows me to file material without trying to cut up your letters which has different material on front and back.

Yes I have checked the K.C. Star quite carefully at the K.C. Library. I have gone through many newspapers here in St. Joseph and Columbia, Mo. The more research I do on the story the more it seems possible that Jesse may have escaped death here.

Nina (Stormer) Horton lives in Atchison Kansas, she has been a widow for many years and children are all married and children of their own.

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The James Story apparently has no end.. Last summer an old timer come down from Iowa who had discovered a James Cave along the bluffs here in 1907 and attempted to relocate it with no success. I tramped all over the hills with him but he just couldn't relocate it.

Very sorry to hear of Harry Seckler's death he may have had some good material. Was he a clipping collector?

Yes I have ran across several things that are new or interesting about Jesse, or at least I think they are new! That explains my degree of interest in the story and why I intend to keep digging into it.

I am enclosing several sheets of questions will appreciate hearing from you in space following question this helps me file material.

[Ref ENCLUSES NOT FOUND]
WK - 6-19-80

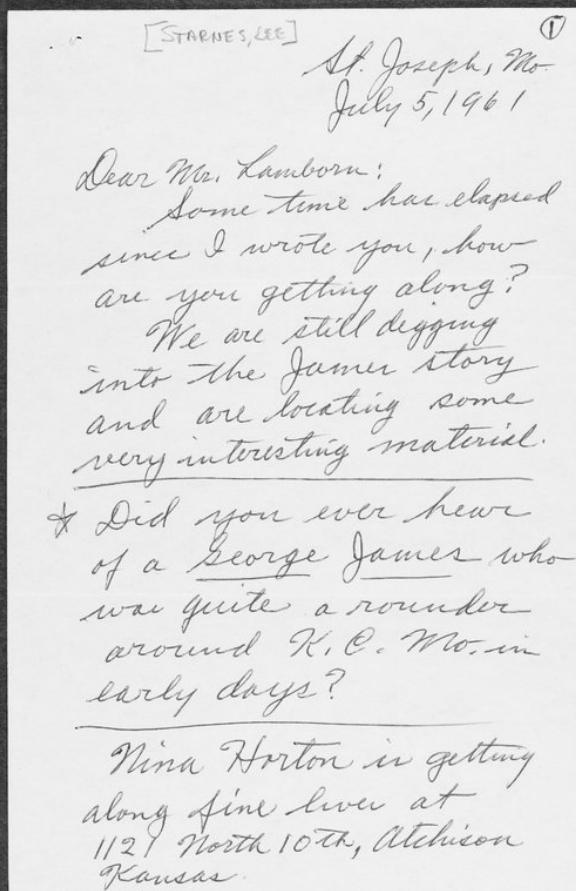
Your friend
Lee Barnes

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You mentioned the large number of clippings you have on outlaws and train holdups. Do they ²
* cover the period from the Reno Brothers up to the 1920 ?
* What do you plan to do with them ? I would be interested in indexing them for you and see that they are preserved in your name. We are planning a museum of Outlaw History and think your clippings would be of interest.
Let me hear from you when convenient

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Homer Oroy has been³
very cooperative and forwarded
me all the correspondence
he received about the
James Boys as a result
of his book.

I am very ~~sure~~
sure there will be
a new James Story
before long.

* Stiles was living
in Leavenworth in 1935
he might have been
listed in city directory.

* Emmett Dalton hated
him for some reason
maybe he knew something
about the Daltons, that
Emmett did not want