

July 24th, 1945

BARNARD COLLEGE  
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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
NEW YORK 27

146, East 39th Street

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dearest Laura,

Thank you ever so much for your letter. It was good to hear from you and I hope that things are still going well for you. In any case you must be very happy at the good news about Betsy. That is wonderful.

I long ago gave up any idea of traveling this summer. I don't expect to leave this country until the end of August at the earliest but it is too hard to get about and anyway a lot of things have turned up to be done here and I am content to work on my little book on the spot.

I have grown to take a great deal of interest in your distant connection, Governor Gilpin and I consider the brief sketch of him that Bancroft wrote wholly inadequate. I almost think that when I come back from France and Switzerland I should like to work on a more complete life of him. It might be that I could get some kind of a grant for such a work. What I would like to know is first who are his descendents and have they any papers of his? If so I could find out whether they would be disposed to allow them to be used. Second, well, the rest I can find out for myself. But I thought that you would know who the surviving Gilpins are and what the chances of papers are. You might also be able to find out whether in the various collections of documents in the Stewart and other collections of which we talked this spring there is material on Gilpin? You would not need to examine it but just to find out whether there was any. This is not at all pressing for I can't even think of such work until a year or more from now but I should like to consult the men at Columbia before leaving on the basis of what could be done.

I am crazy to know what you are doing and how things are going for you. When is the Struthers burt article to appear? Did you have a good time with the illustrations? Have you gone off to follow the glorious Rio Grande? Have you been to Del Norte?

I have written about sixty thousand words on my book. I do wish that I were with

you both for the pleasure of it and because I would like to see various people including the clerk of the Court in Del Norte who would have, I think, knowledge of the Espinosas and of the Spanish settlements in southern Colorado. It is terrible how fascinated one grows to be by this kind of work!

Mary writes me that she has not seen you but hopes to do so. Irving is for the moment here in the East but I fear he will not remain so for the rest of the war--- men of his kind are too badly needed by the Navy. I hope, by the way, that you will see Mrs. Garcia? In Del Norte.

How wonderful it would be to be in the Colorado country now! I do envy you. Do please, darling, write to me and tell me all about your trip and where you are and what your plans are. I love you very, very much, dear Laura.

If you can find out what there is in the Stewart collection dealing with Ouray, William Bent, St Vrain, Creede, Wason or Gilpin I would be eternally grateful.

I have been down in Washington and am going again. I went to try to hurry my French visa but I also went both to the Library of Congress and to the National Archives and am going again in August to work in the latter place.

Do write and give me your news. You are fortunate but you have earned it. This letter is too much my affairs but you know that I think of you and love you.

My dearest love to you. It was a great joy to see you this year.

Charles H.