

DECEMBER 17, 1971
KARVAL, COLORADO

DEAR MISS GILPIN,

I THINK I WROTE TO YOU IN 1966 ABOUT THE COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S CENTENNIAL WHICH WAS HELD IN 1967. I HEARD NOTHING FROM YOU THEN, BUT BERNARD J. GILPIN, JR.'S BRAND, THE $\frac{1}{2}$ APPEARED IN A RERINT OF AN 1885 BRAND BOOK, WHEN HIS RANGE FOR CATTLE WAS EL PASO COUNTY. THIS WAS IN ONE OF THE BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THAT YEAR.

RECENTLY, THE LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED, TO BE FORMALLY INITIATED NEXT MONTH, AND I AM HOPING YOU CAN FURNISH SOME FACTS ABOUT BERNARD GILPIN AND YOUR FATHER FRANK GILPIN DURING THEIR RESIDENCE IN LINCOLN COUNTY. I HAVE A TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP MADE IN 1889 WHICH SHOWS THE MARYLAND CATTLE CO. ON IT. I HAD TALKED TO MR. HOMER JONES BEFORE, WHO TOLD ME OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO BERNARD GILPIN.

I WAS IN COLORADO SPRINGS THIS FALL AND WAS AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER, WHERE I TALKED TO MR. HOWARD PINNEY, WHO VERIFIED YOUR ADDRESS AND SAID TO SAY HELLO TO YOU WHEN I WROTE. I AM ENCLOSING A FORM LETTER WHICH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROVIDED FOR CHRISTMAS MAILING AND ALSO A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOP FOR YOUR REPLY.

AS I DID MOST OF THE RESEARCH ON LINCOLN COUNTY CATTLEMEN FOR THE CENTENNIAL, I TALKED TO A GOOD MANY PEOPLE ABOUT THE OLD TIMERS. ONE WAS A COLORADO SPRINGS BANKER, WHO TOLD ME OF A SAM WILDER WHO WORKED ON THE GILPIN RANCH AND LATER RETIRED TO COLORADO SPRINGS TO LIVE. MUCH OF MY INFORMATION CAME FROM COURT HOUSE RECORDS, WHICH ARE NOT AS DRY AS ONE MIGHT THINK, BUT TELL THE STORY OF THE EARLY DAY ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE OWNER FROM HIS EMPLOYEES.

LAST SUMMER A HOUSE IN HUSO WAS DONATED FOR A MUSEUM FOR LINCOLN COUNTY AND THE SOCIETY WILL WORK TO PROVIDE MATERIALS AND DISPLAYS FOR THE MUSEUM ALSO, BESIDES GATHERING THE HISTORY. I WONDER IF YOU KNOW WHAT BECAME OF DR. JEREMIAH SANBORN, FROM WHOM BERNARD GILPIN BOUGHT THE PROPERTY. I HAVE NEVER FOUND OUT, ALTHO I KNOW HE HAD A BROTHER CAMERON W. SANBORN IN COLORADO SPRINGS. ALSO, I WONDERED IF YOU HAD EVER HEARD OF THOS. J. WARD, AND HIS WIDOW, MARY H.C. WARD WHO HAD HOLDINGS IN THE RANCH PROPERTY. IN LATER YEARS THERE WAS A THOMAS WARD WHO WAS AN ATTORNEY IN DENVER, WHO TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS IN LINCOLN COUNTY.

I WAS IN COLORADO COLLEGE IN THE '30S AND HEARD OF YOU BUT NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU, ALTHO I HAVE SEEN SOME OF YOUR WORK AND WE PROBABLY HAVE MUTUAL FRIENDS.. ANYTHING YOU CAN FURNISH ON THE HISTORY, WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I HAVE BEEN TO THE RANCH NORTH OF COLORADO SPRINGS WHERE BERNARD GILPIN STARTED IN COLORADO, BECAUSE I WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING WHERE IT WAS. MY HUSBAND HAD AN ANCESTOR WHO WAS A PIONEER IN THE COLORADO SPRINGS AREA, AND I HOPE WE CAN BE A PART OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS CENTENNIAL IN 1972.

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS,
SINCERELY,

MRS. JACK R. OWEN

Mrs. Jack R. Owen