

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

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Mrs. Jack R. Owen
Karval, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Owen:

I am sorry not to have answered your letter of December 17 before now, but many things have happened to me here that have taken all my time. I am afraid I cannot give you much information about the cattle brands. You seem to know more than I about all of this.

My father, Francis Gilpin, was very reluctant to talk about his early cattle days and he left no record whatsoever. I do know that he and his elder brother Bernard Gilpin, Jr.'s brand was the one-half that belonged to the ranch he had. I hope I am correct in saying that the present east line of the Air Academy land was the western boundary of the one-half ranch north of Colorado Springs.

~~Before~~ ^{My} my father's ~~ranch~~, he and my Uncle Bernard had the ranch out on Horse Creek to which you refer. For years and years I tried to get my father to get out there and show me the old ranch, but he never would do it. I know that it was on Horse Creek and that is about all I can tell you. If I recall, my uncle went back to Baltimore and my father took over the ranch.

I do remember hearing the names Sandburn, Sam Wilder and Garmon. I have one or two early photographs of that place; one is an interior. I believe the entire series that William H. Jackson did of Colorado Cattle Ranch was done on that ranch. I know my father is in one or two of the pictures. I shall write to one of my cousins in Virginia to see if my Uncle Bernard has left any records of his early days. This is a possibility, though I have never heard of it, and I think I should have by now since he died some years ago. When families are scattered so far apart it is awfully difficult to get all this various information.

I should love to see the map to which you refer, showing the Maryland Cattle Company, but I must confess that this is the first time I have known such a company existed. Perhaps I can get up to Colorado again before long to explore that eastern country. I wish that this were more extensive than it is, but I just do not have more to send you.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Laura Gilpin