



BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Lewis W. Gillilan

*[Letters]: Letters from a Stagecoach Driver to his Fiancé (and later Wife and Children) during various parts of his life but mostly from 1909 to 1910
Yellowstone, Wyoming / Salt Lake City, Utah: 1909-1910 (a few later) \$3000*



A collection of 91 letters from 1909 to 1910 (with a few later) by a few correspondents, but predominately letters from Lewis W. Gillilan to Miss Ellen Benson of Utah during Gillilan's trip to Yellowstone, Wyoming. All items are very good with light creasing from mailing, modest tears, and light staining with clear handwritten text.

Handwritten love letters, mostly from from Lewis W. Gillilan to his wife to be, Ellen Benson, with a few in return from her. Neither Gillilan or Benson's parents approved of their relationship and Gillilan was cut off from his allowance. Rather than giving up, Gillilan traveled to Yellowstone, Wyoming from Salt Lake City, Utah to find enough work to finance their marriage. The first letter written about his trip is from Benson explaining how much she loves and misses him, "Oh dear I wish we had a little home of our own and just you and I, how I'd love you and try to make you happy... I just love you so much that I can't find words to express my feelings." Gillilan first worked on ships but quickly switched to a job as a stagecoach driver, "I have a job that I like now and have always been crazy for." The letters from this time talk about how much Gillilan misses his true love and that no matter what others say, he still loves her, "Even if nobody likes it, it's alright as long as you and I are satisfied with each other." Later in the letters, Gillilan asks Benson to come to Butte, Montana to be married, "Dearie, do you know what I'd rather do? I'd like to have you come up to butte and get – you know..." Benson complies and travels to Butte where the couple was married and spent their honeymoon. In an article we found (not in this archive), it was revealed that after the couple got married their parents forgave them and reconciled.

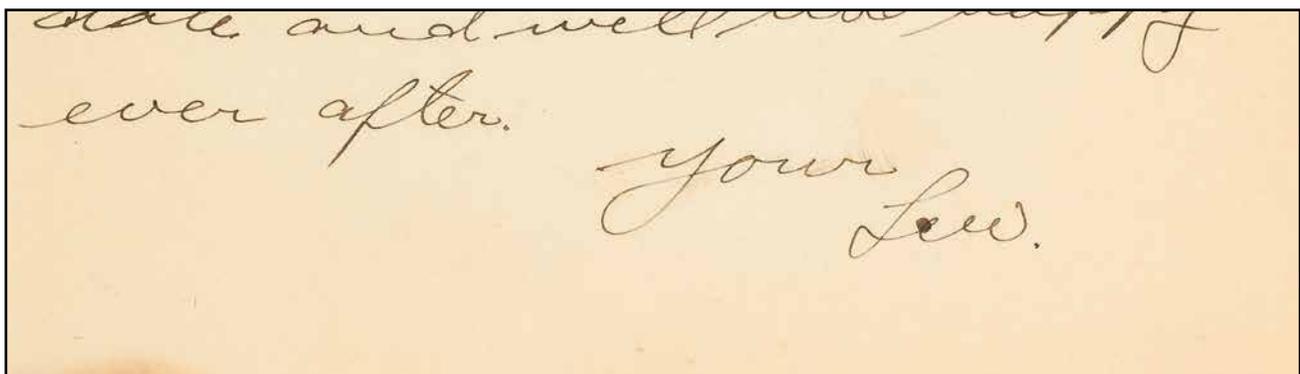
The mail prior to Gillilan leaving for Yellowstone is during his trip to Springville, Utah during the fall of 1909 and spring of 1910. In these letters it is expressed how much he cares for Ellen Benson and how their families disapprove of their relationship. He writes of his decision to travel to Yellowstone in hopes of making enough for the couple to get married. During his time working as a stagecoach driver, Gillilan traveled to various places in the west for his work; including Montana, Nevada, and Nebraska.

Later there is additional correspondence from 1939 during Gillilan's daughter's trip to Banchory and Aberdeen in Scotland. The letters are correspondence between Louis W. Gillilan and his daughter, Lois A. Gillilan. She writes of how she is doing in Scotland and how her work is going as a doctor, she later became a Bacteriologist. Her father and mother sent cards and letters about the newborn babies in their family and of their friends. One features a beautifully illustrated couple holding a newborn baby. At this time Louis and Ellen Gillilan live in Summit, New Jersey.

One of the later letters from 1942, is to Ellen Gillilan after her husband has passed away, "I want you to know how deeply shocked we were to hear of Lew's Death, and how terribly we grieve with you." Louis Gillilan died at 51 on April 20th 1942, leaving Ellen, his three daughters, and a son. Additionally there are a few later letters.

An extensive look into a man's life and family commencing with his adventures in the West.

[BTC#413908]



...and well as happy
ever after.
your
Lew.

YELLOWSTONE PARK ASSOCIATION

Lake HOTEL

HOTELS:

MAMMOTH HOTSPRINGS
NORRIS GEYSER BASIN
FOUNTAIN GEYSER BASIN
OLD FAITHFUL INN
THUMB OF LAKE
YELLOWSTONE LAKE
GRAND CANON

Yellowstone Park, Wyo. 9-7-10

Dearest E., -

Received two of your letters to-day and I am certainly glad that you consent to come to Butte. I know that is the only way for me to do and it no doubt will be a good thing for you.

Just what we will do afterwards I am not certain but dearie, believe me I'll do all I possibly can for your comfort and pleasure. If you pass the examination and you are offered something that you don't want to turn down you will not be tied down so that