

Peter Adolph Burman
Letter, December 20, 1944
Accession Number 10670
I small collection envelope

During approximately 1899 to 1900, Peter Adolph Burman drove a supply wagon from Rock Springs, Wyoming, to a ranch probably owned by Joe Davenport in Brown's Park, Colorado. He also worked as a clerk for the Union Pacific Railroad at the Tie Plant in Laramie, Wyoming, as a farmer in Nebraska and Washington, and as a schoolteacher in Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska for a year where he majored in the humanities. He was acquainted with and worked with Tom Horn.

Tom Horn, born in Missouri on November 21, 1860, became famous in Wyoming as an assassin. In 1894 he became a stock detective for the Swan Land and Cattle Company of Wyoming. He is believed to have killed small ranchers and other men who were thought to be cattle rustlers. On November 20, 1903, he was hanged for the shooting death of William Nickell. His guilt in the Nickell case remains controversial.

The collection consists of a copy of a letter Peter Adolph Burman wrote to his son, Robert Burman, in 1944 when Robert Burman was in the army. The letter contains a paragraph in which Peter Adolph Burman talks about knowing Tom Horn and in which he describes Horn's personality. A transcript of the letter is available with the collection.

The letter was donated to the American Heritage Center by Robert Burman in November 1999.