



FINDING AID

GILLSON FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS 1901

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HISTORY

The Gillson family made a trip from their home in Evanston, Illinois, to Yellowstone National Park (Wyo.) in 1901. Louis K. Gillson was born to English parents in Ohio in January 1852. By the 1880s he was an attorney specializing in Civil War pension claims as well as a patent attorney in Chicago. He may have also worked as a patent attorney for the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. His wife, Ida B. (maiden name unknown), was born in Ohio in September 1854. The couple married around 1875 and lived in Ohio and Michigan before moving to Illinois sometime before 1900.

According to census records, the couple had 5 children, two of whom were still living in 1920: Cornelia, born about 1875; Burton, born about 1877; Milo, born in 1879; Louis K., Jr., born in February 1893; and Joseph Lincoln, born in April 1895. In the 1910 census an adopted daughter born around 1901 and named, probably, Florence (the record is difficult to read) was also living with the family. Granddaughter Jane Gillson Langton, daughter of Joseph L. and Grace B. Gillson, recalled an uncle "Charles" older than her father; perhaps Charles was the middle name of Burton or Milo.

It seems likely that the album was compiled by Ida. Although inscribed "To Father", captions in the same hand and ink list Ida by first name rather than "Mother" or something similar. In this era it seems far more likely that Ida would call her husband "Father" on at least some occasions than that the children would call their mother by her first name.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

GILLSON FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS 1901

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 184462

VOLUME 0.2 LF

DESCRIPTION Photographic prints, a photo album, and a negative of the Gillson family trip to Yellowstone National Park in 1901.

The collection consists of photographic prints, cabinet cards, one negative and a photograph album. Most of the prints appear to be albumen; the images in the album, which are duplicates of some of the mounted prints, are likely sepia-toned silver gelatin.

The images show a classic trip through Yellowstone during the turn-of-the-century era including arrival by train (with the added excitement of a derailment), covered wagon transportation, camping in canvas wall tents, the Norris Hotel, and visits to numerous scenic locations and geothermal features. Geysers shown include Old Faithful, Castle, Grotto, Economic, Sponge, and Lone Star. Landscape views include the Teton Range, Yellowstone and Jackson lakes, and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. There are also images of the Gibbon, Firehole, and Lewis rivers; Kepler Cascades; Moose Falls; Upper Falls; Lower Falls; Sheepeater Cliffs, the Paint Pots at Thumb; and Minerva Terrace. Other features include the Beartooth and Cody roads, Corkscrew Bridge at Sylvan Pass, Chittenden Bridge, Camp Roosevelt, Specimen Ridge, Angel Terrace, Golden Gate, Silver Gate, Shoshone Dam, Biscuit Basin, Liberty Cap, Pahaska Teepee, Emerald Pool, the Haynes Picture Shop at Tower, and Mammoth Hot Springs. Wildlife includes several images of bears, an osprey nest, and beaver "work". Only a few images include people: Ida B. Gillson, Louis K. "Louie" Gillson, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Everts, unnamed cowboys and drivers, and a guide named Ben.

<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	Arranged by accession number and format. Images in the album remain in original order.
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Gift of Jane Gillson Langton in 1986 and 1998.
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	NO
<i>ASSOCIATED MATERIALS</i>	Accession YELL-01016, 49 images (catalog # YELL 44647-44695), Yellowstone National Park Museum Collection.

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
01	Views of Yellowstone [cabinet cards]
02	Views of Yellowstone [photo album]
03	Views of Yellowstone [prints]