

STEFANSSON GUN (from Scrapbooks in computer)

"Chas. R. Cross and W.L. Smith were appointed a committee to secure a proper rifle for Vilhkjalmur Stefansson as a token of esteem to be used in his forthcoming expedition."  
(Minutes of the Fellows Meeting, 11 April 1913. BookX p39 item46)

23 ELM STREET, BOSTON, June 8 1913 191

M Harvard Travellers Club,

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL LABORATORY  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Cambridge, Mass.

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1 "C" pattern Gibbs (London) Mannlicher- magnum .256 cal. Rifle & extras	\$ 115	20
Duty	29	45
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Foreign charges	2	94
Special expenses, rush draying etc.	5	00
Sp Com. S. D. & G.	7	78
Additional deposit for Consulars Invoice.	10	00
Amount of bill from Schoverling Daly Gales	\$ 173	37 N et
Boston Expenses: two cablegrams, four telegrams	6	41
Special silver plate, fitting to stock and engraving inscription	5	00
Express charges from New York		65
1 box via American Exp. Telegram to Esquimault BC	\$ 135	53
Manifest Value (British Manufacture)	1	50
Mr. V. Stefansson, Canadian Arctic Expedition.	\$ 187	03
Navy Ward, Esquimault, B.C.		

*File*

*EX*

*M.P.*

Boston, Nov. 19, 1913.

Prof. Theodore Lyman,  
Cambridge, Mass.,

Dear Prof. Lyman:

Enclosed please find your check for the Stefansson rifle, \$187.03, also a check payable to Dr. Smith for \$18.50 which is for the annual meeting last May. He paid this with his own check. I will see that he gets it if you will return it to me after you have signed it.

I am also enclosing sample of the blank sent out for correcting and making additions to the year book last year. After you have made what changes you think necessary please return to me and I will have them printed and sent out at once.

Do you wish to have the checks for dues sent to you at the Jefferson Physical Laboratory? It occurs to me that it would facilitate matters for you if with the bills there were enclosed return envelopes with your name and address upon them so that it would not be necessary for you to open each one. I only make this as a suggestion.

Very truly yours,



41 Walden Street  
Concord, Massachusetts  
March 9, 1924.

Mr. Edward Wigglesworth  
234 Berkeley Street  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wigglesworth,

I have your letter saying that you are back "on the job."

I hesitate to write a letter for you to sign in reply to that of Mr. Bower. I am therefore giving you a copy of everything that there is on the records.

At a meeting of the Fellows held April 11, 1913 I find the following

Charles R. Cross and William Lord Smith were appointed a committee to secure a proper rifle for Vilhjalmur Stefansson as a token of esteem to be used in his forthcoming expedition.

Dr. Townsend W. Thorndike showed the following letter which was sent to the Canadian Government.

Harvard Travellers Club  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
United States of America

To the Rt. Hon. Robert L. Borden  
Premier and President of the Kings  
Privy Council.  
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir;

The Harvard Travellers Club, a contributor to the former Arctic Expedition of its Fellow, Vilhjalmur Stefansson wishes to express to you and to the other members of the Council its appreciation of your resolution to extend to the new expedition the protection of the Canadian flag.

The selection of Mr. Stefansson as a leader of the expedition is most felicitous. Possessing exceptional ability to endure the hardships of Arctic field work



-2-E.W.

he is also singularly qualified by training, experience and sympathy, to obtain an intimate knowledge of the Eskimos.

We therefore on behalf of this Club venture to cordially congratulate your Government on its wise and patriotic action.

Theodore Lyman, President  
William Lord Smith, Secretary

April tenth

Nineteen hundred and thirteen.

I have no record to show when the rifle was sent. Perhaps Kirkwood Brothers, Elm Street, Boston can give you that information. The Club paid for the rifle October 13, 1913.

In regard to the Oakland letter I have nothing to suggest unless you can find out from Capt. Bartlett what happened to the rifle. From the letter it seems to have been in reliable hands at all times.

I am sending you some letters which you will want answer yourself perhaps.

The Proof of the year book has come. Do you care to go over it? If so, I will bring it in to you Thursday when I come ~~to~~ to Boston. Will you please make a list of the countries which are not included in the list that are printed in the year book. I suggest that a special page be printed so as to explain why certain countries have not been included.

This is just a reminder that the nominating committee should be appointed this month.

Here are some checks for you to sign.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Cloudoff

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON  
36 BEDFORD STREET  
NEW YORK

Written at Winnipeg, Manitoba  
August 28, 1929

Dear Dr. Lyman

The rifle presented to me by the Harvard Travellers Club in 1913 and lost in 1914 has now been found in the possession of a man who claims he has a legal right to it. You can probably give me important information having a bearing on the legality of his ownership -- at least I infer that from the notice you published in Science for March 16, 1925, in which you stated the Club had information leading them to believe that the rifle had been stolen.

In your letter to me of April 27, 1925, you in effect repeated the Science statement though you did not specify what your evidence was. Now I hope you will give me that evidence for the necessity will appear below.

The present holder of the rifle is a man of high standing in Winnipeg, with many and influential friends. He is a collector of fire arms, having more than a hundred pieces of historic or curious interest. He says that a friend whom he values and knows to be reliable gave him the rifle which you presented to me, with the information that it had been purchased at a sale of unclaimed freight or unclaimed baggage conducted by the Canadian Pacific Railway at some point on the Pacific Coast, perhaps Victoria or Vancouver. He does not know, however, through how many intermediate hands the rifle may have passed between the said sale and its presentation.

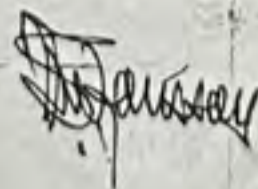
It happens that a vice president of the Canadian Pacific is a friend of mine and that I have been able to see him. He says that if there was a sale of the rifle more than ten years ago, the records, according to the rules of the company, will have been destroyed for they are destroyed when ten years old. It is therefore all the more important that we should get whatever clue you have as to possible or probable theft.

The long and short of it seems to be that if the rifle was sold as unclaimed freight or baggage, then the real ownership is now in its present possessor but if it was illegitimately obtained we own it.

This matter is urgent for I am passing through Winnipeg on September 8 and this will be my last opportunity for an indefinite time to handle it personally. I am accordingly sending a carbon to the Secretary of the Harvard Travellers Club with the hope that he may be able to forward me the information in case you happen to be out of the city.

If time presses too much, I would appreciate a night letter collect at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, to reach me by September 8.

Theodore Lyman, President  
Harvard Travellers Club  
Jefferson Physical Laboratory  
Cambridge, Mass.  
Carbon to:  
Edward Higginson, Secretary  
Harvard Travellers Club  
7 Chestnut Street  
Boston, Mass.



VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON  
36 BEDFORD STREET  
NEW YORK

September 25, 1929.

Dear Mr. Wigglesworth:

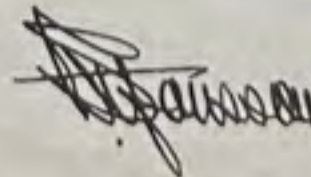
As you know from my previous letter, the rifle presented to me by the Harvard Travellers' Club has been found in the possession of a man who claims he has a legal right to it. This legal right he claims he got because a man, who he alleges was Captain Bartlett, checked the rifle, probably the autumn of 1914 in ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> Canadian Pacific Railway parcels room in British Columbia and never made any further claim for it, with the rifle eventually sold for storage charges.

While there is nothing reprehensible in Bartlett's having checked the rifle as alleged and then forgotten about it, especially in the stress of war, it is thought at least possible that the man who checked it was not Bartlett and possibly someone who did not have a legal right to it at the time. Moreover this is suggested by the announcement which Professor Theodore Lyman, then President of the Harvard Travellers' Club, published in Science for March 16, 1923, to the effect that the Club had evidence leading them to believe that the rifle had been stolen and offering a reward for information as to its whereabouts.

In view of the present debatable legal status of the rifle, it is important that the Club, either directly or acting through me, shall make known what evidence they had at the time of President Lyman's announcement (or at any other time) that the rifle had been stolen.

I hope you will be able to reply quickly, for the case is being actively sifted in Winnipeg and we need all evidence at once. If you prefer to deal directly with Winnipeg, you might write to Mr. Justice Dysart, 57 Edmonton, Street, in that city. Dysart is a Harvard Law man, was among the leading attorneys of Winnipeg, and is now in a position of even greater influence as a high judicial officer, and is a widely admired and respected man. He knows the present holder of the rifle, who is so prominent that his name would be "big news" in this connection if it got into the papers and is, therefore, being guarded from publicity. The private nature of the investigation is one more reason why we were in a hurry for whatever evidence it was that led to President Lyman's announcement.

If you write direct to Mr. Justice Dysart, I hope you will let me know that you have done so.



Mr. Edward Wigglesworth, Secretary,  
Harvard Travellers Club,  
7 Chestnut Street,  
Boston, Mass.

September 27, 1929.

Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson,  
36 Bedford Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Stefansson:

I have your letter of September 25. As the rifle was lost before I was an officer of the Travellers Club, I do not know anything about it. Dr. Theodore Lyman probably remembers all the circumstances as I believe he was president of the club at that time. I do not <sup>know</sup> whether Dr. Lyman was able to furnish you with any information in response to your previous letter, but if he does not know about it I am sure no one does.

Very truly yours,