



## MG 641 – Evelyn Rogers and Lilja Stefansson fonds

**Dates:** 1959-2016

**Extent:** .8 m of textual records; 86 photographs; 3 VHS tapes

**Biography:** Lilja Stefansson was born in Vestfold, Manitoba in 1921. After the collapse of her first marriage she moved to Saskatchewan with her two children. A second marriage to a farmer in the Rouleau district, produced another child. After seventeen years that union also ended unhappily. By happenstance a close friend from church circles was in a similar situation. In 1971 they took a week-end trip to the States as friends. She and Evelyn Rogers came back as lovers. This was the beginning of a devoted relationship that lasted, as Lilja had hoped, until her death which on June 16, 2013.  
(taken from [https://library2.usask.ca/srsd/memoir\\_stefansson.php?part=refl3](https://library2.usask.ca/srsd/memoir_stefansson.php?part=refl3))

**Scope and Content:** This collection contains material relating to the life of Lilja Stefansson, mainly her life with Evelyn Rogers. A lot of writing by Lilja as well as Evelyn which documents their lives, as well as clippings, correspondence and other documents. Also documents relating to lesbianism, Lilja's involvement in Intercultural Grandmothers, her work at SGI, and involvement with the Senior's Education Centre at the U of R.

**Arrangement:** This material arrived in no particular order, as it came in along with material which was donated by the estate of Neil Richards after he passed away. Neil had been collecting the material from Evelyn in order to pass it along to the U of S archives before he passed. Documents which were clearly kept together either in files or binders were maintained in the group and order they were found in. Other loose material was arranged by the archivist and was grouped into these 8 series:

1. Personal/Biographical
2. Correspondence
3. Binders
4. Writing
5. Publications
6. Yearbooks
7. Activism/Participation
8. Miscellaneous

**Restrictions:** Files marked as **RESTRICTED** require vetting by the archivist prior to release. All restrictions are applied as per privacy legislation. Copyright restrictions also apply.

*Finding aid by Amy Putnam, 2018.*

Further accruals expected.

1. Personal/Biographical

“To Whom is My Concern letter”. – 2016.

Letter written by Evelyn discussing her intent to donate her and Lilja’s documents to the University of Saskatchewan Archives after they pass.

Funeral Card. – 2013.

Lilja’s funeral card.

“A Brief Autobiography of Lilja B. Geran.” – 1959.

Handwritten (and photocopied).

Coming Out Stories. – nd.

Written by both Evelyn and Lilja detailing their coming out experience.

Genealogy. – nd, 2004. – **RESTRICTED.**

Contains genealogical information. Also contains two copies of poem “This Old House”.

Pictures/Family History. – nd, 1994, 1998. – 7 b&w photographs. – **RESTRICTED.**

Genealogical and biographical information. Also includes recipe for Vinaterta and Turkey Soup, Beginners Genealogy Kit, and pages from a scrapbook called “The Stefansson Family History” with photographs photocopies of photographs.

“Medical Health Records of my Family”. – **RESTRICTED.**

Notebook filled with Lilja’s family medical history in her handwriting.

Photos. – nd., 1915, – 3 b&w photographs.

“Evelyn & Ross at Granpas Farm Grand Coulee,” “Jim and Agnes Argue and Mabel, Muriel, Lloyd at farm at Grenfell,” School horse & buggy, Lloyd Argue”.

Photograph Album – 1925-30. – 65 b&w photographs.

Myrtle Wilson, Muriel Argue, Lloyd Argue, Stella Wilson, Margaret Argue, and others are named. Also some photos of the U of S campus.

SGI. – nd, 1961.

Speech from her retirement, clippings.

Lilja’s Visitors. – 2000.

Guest book from a hospital stay.

## 2. Correspondence.

Misc. – nd, 1984, 2013.

Evelyn to Lilja. – 2009-2010.

Letters and notes written by Evelyn to Lilja while Lilja was under quarantine.

Birthday cards. – nd, 1996.

Mac and beth Hone. – 1998-2006.

Correspondence, birthday cards, Christmas cards, artworks by Mac Hone.

## 3. Binders.

80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Lilja Stefansson – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001. – 1 binder.

Contains poems, games, letters, and birthday cards.

Lilja's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Album: February 4<sup>th</sup> 1921 to 2006. – 1 binder.

Guest list and birthday cards and notes.

Binder. – 1986 2000.

Contains writings by and about Lilja, her work and retirement from SGI, her involvement in Intercultural Grandmothers Society, and feminism.

## 4. Writings.

"Filling in a Gap in the Christmas Story" by Lilya Stefansson & Evelyn Rogers. – nd.

Handwritten notebook.

Notebook. – 1981, nd.

Notebook with various stories/essays.

"Lilja's Writings." – nd, 1991-1997. – 11 b&w photographs.

Handwritten, typed, as well as clippings, containing various writings by Lilja.

Writing by Evelyn. – 1997, 2009-2015.

Typed.

## 5. Publications.

Consensus: Affirm-Affirmer Newsletter. – Summer 1985.

Labrys News. – 1985.

June 1985, October 1985, December 1985.

Voices for Lesbian Survival. – [1984-85?]  
# 15 Fall 9984, #17 9985

Clippings. – 1972-2016.  
About writers and writing, LGBTQ and lesbianism, from Icelandic publications.

#### 6. Yearbooks.

Drinkwater Yearbook. – 1961-62.  
Yearbook from when Lilja taught at the Drinkwater School.

Lampada yearbook. – 1961.  
Saskatchewan teachers college yearbook from Lilja's year, with signatures of her classmates.

"Book of Recollections" - Regina Normal School. – nd. – **RESTRICTED.**  
With documentation relating to the reunion.

#### 7. Activism/Participation in Stuff

"The United Church Issue." – nd, 1988.  
Clippings and a copy of the Observer.

"Church Issue." – 1982, 1989.  
Clippings, correspondence. Also labelled "for Neil Richards" who was collecting their material for donation before he passed.

Intercultural grandmothers. – 1996-2006.  
Clippings, articles, etc. includes duotang labeled "Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting"

*You Shoulda Been There: Stories and Poems from the "Good Old Days".* – 1996.  
Compiled by Seniors University Group Incorporated in partnership with Seniors' Education Centre, University Extension, University of Regina.

*Proud to Be Canadian: A Collection of the Writings by Members of the Creative Writing Class...Seniors Education Centre.* – 2001.

"Living our Lives Data". – nd, 1992-1993.  
Documentation relating to a video series for Seniors Education Centre.

VHS. – 3 VHS.  
"Never too Old To Learn," "Heart of the Matter", "Living for Others"

Final Report on Creating Prairie Cronies, Older Women's Network Project. – 1993.

8. Misc.

Pamphlets. – 1991-2008.

Wedding announcements, funeral cards, clippings.

“In This World Full of People I'm Glad I Found You.” – 1969.

Book gifted to Lil from Evelyn.

Heather Bishop Poster. – 1998.