

Mrs. Elliott J. Vetter

4289 Oakwood Drive

Buffalo, N. Y., 14221

May 20, 1965.

Mr. Erik Lunde  
Aftenposten  
Akert 51,  
Oslo, Norway.

Dear Mr. Lunde:

Mr. Hugo Levin of Seattle, Washington, has told me of your interesting correspondence and of your interest in the Polar controversy... That you would appreciate any new information on the subject. I waited until we had gathered all the data for our Centenary press kits so that you may have as much information as you need.

In the blue folder, nothing is said about what happened to Dr. Cook's McKinley claim over the years--- purposely. This is the year to clarify the North Pole claim, then the rest of the charges will fall in line when the public and some important people realize that to what extent the propaganda web was set up to discredit Cook. I find that people, and naturally so, are very uncomfortable over a controversy. So we are taking the approach ---- this is what the man did.

Also, nothing was said about the many charges brought against Cook by the opposition which for your information have been exposed as such. Examples --- Dr. Cook did not confess, He did not steal a missionary's life work, he had ample food supply for the time involved, his speed was well in line with normal Polar logistics, he did not manufacture his observations (they have been studied by experts). The Eskimo testimony as reported by Peary and his men--- is fabrication.

On McKinley; this was a plan to discredit Cook. The opposition reasoned if they could keep him discredited, then his North Pole claim would not be believed. It worked. I have much revealing information. Briefly, Historians Balch and Rost submitted important data which is recorded in the Congressional Record of 3/4/1915--- in support of Cook and exposing the fraudulent claim of Belmore Browne in 1910 that he had duplicated Cook's summit photo in Ruth Glacier (20 miles from McKinley). This same trick was tried by the present McKinley expert (B. Washburn) for several years around 1956 to block the 50th anniversary of Dr. Cook's reaching the highest mountain in North America. His report in the American Alpine Journal is formidable but he did not duplicate Cook's summit photo where the opposition would like you <sup>to</sup> believe Cook's McKinley trail ends.

Ice Islands: They are strong silent witnesses for Cook and our thoughts must turn to this comparatively new evidence. Note the reprint from Arctic (enclosed). This article has stirred up matter of a re-examination with present confirming knowledge--- which is long overdue. As I wrote to the President of the American Geographic Society, "It is not too late-- it can never be too late to act on an important historical matter such as this to clear up Polar records for future generations. It would be unfair to them to leave a legacy of a situation that we did not have the courage to face."

Messages are being received (either to me or Mr. Gibbons) from prominent men and institutions to be read at the luncheon on the day of the ceremonies when the marker is erected on his birthright. It would be

wonderful to hear from Niels Nielson, ~~or~~ the Polar societies, and the University of Copenhagen.

A lovely letter was received by the Committee at the birthplace from the Norsk Polar Institutt---'among Cook's accomplishments,' they cited that "he made the longest sledge journey in Arctic history--- and the most daring."

I am enclosing extra copies of the Congressional record. If any groups wish them. Also, the enclosed material is available for their libraries if they want them.

After the first of June, a commemorative booklet with photos will be available on request.

I will be happy to answer any questions. I have researched the Polar enigma for over 15 years. First to satisfy myself on exploration work of Dr. Cook, and second, now that I am convinced, to make the data (much of it is rare and not easily found in even large libraries) available for researchers. This includes the diaries. Incidentally, Peary never would allow this and they are still sealed in a lock box as far as I know. Even his staunch supporter and biographer, Hobbs, was denied this.

In the interest of correct history records--- as history was made; not as some wished it had been.

Sincerely,

*Helene Cook Vetter*

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Sorry for the mistakes in typing but do not have time to recopy as want to get this in the mail to you.