

Minnesota. Board of Pardons.  
Gilbert Henry Stephenson: Application No. 5151.  
Pardon Application. File no. 5151, 1921  
Correspondence  
Letter from T. W. Hugo to Board of Pardons, March 11, 1921.

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## CITY OF DULUTH

### MAYOR'S OFFICE

T. W. HUGO, MAYOR  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

March Eleventh,  
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To the Pardon Board,  
Stillwater, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

On the fifteenth of June, 1920, a mob law got the better of the civil and as a consequence people became excited and did things which they would not have otherwise thought of, the whole resulting in the unfortunate hanging of some negroes and general destruction of property by and through which the city of Duluth received a great deal of unpleasant notority and a sensational trial which sentenced among others, Mr. Gilbert H. Stephenson to Stillwater for rioting and as one of the participators in the riot.

Since that time certain evidence has been brought to my attention particularly that of a policeman who knew Mr. Stephenson very well and who is positive that he ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the man who was indentified as a participant in the riot.

Mr. Stephenson has lived in Duluth for eight years was a truck driver for Mr. Blawie and as far as known has been an orderly and reputable citizen, has not been under police surveillance at any time and has committed no offense for which police had reason to take cognizance. Many reputable citizens have spoken to me in reference to this matter amongst them being Mr. Ed. Swenson, formerly city alderman and <sup>who</sup> ~~one~~ lived in Duluth all his live time, <sup>who</sup> ~~knows~~ knows Mr. Stephenson and his relatives intimately and a man in whom I place implicit confidence in any thing which he might say, gives Mr. Gilbert H. Stephenson very splendid record and I am inclined to believe what he says.

Being informed that other evidence can be presented than that submitted at the trial, I respectfully request that you give this matter your attention if the facts are satisfactory, give the person the benefit of a re-hearing or whatever is the usual method of procedure.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your patient hearing, I remain

Yours respectfully,

TWH:AJ

  
mayor

**DULUTH**  
Great Port of the Northwest