



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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Cambridge, Mass

July 9, 1898

My dear Brewster:

Can I trouble you to give me the name of the firm that publishes the University lectures at Madison, or isn't there such.

We have at Ann Arbor - each lecture is furnished at 4¢ a piece, or by course in bulk. I want to get hold of some of the Wisconsin lectures in Hist. & Pol. Sc.

Weather is "whops!" here. Understand you are getting it hot out there today and likely to get more. We are billed for a toaster tomorrow again.

Very truly yours

G. S. Miller,

#11 Putnam Ave.

Montana State Normal College

HISTORY

DIR. OF DEPT., GEORGE NEWMAN FULLER, A. M. (Harv.)

DILLON, MONTANA.

June 17, 1909.

My dear Buck:

I cease from vexing my soul long enough to look up and say, hello! I am near the end of my first year among the "woolies", and my "Sweet young life" still ebbs pleasantly on. The tom-a-hawk treatment is bracing. How I wish you would come out here and help me make was on the mountain trout, which give us good sport; nothing a thrill, and palatable lunches. Do you make Seattle this year? We shall take a peep, then down through California back to the National Park, and to Michigan. Possibly we may take a flying trip to Cambridge in the late summer. I see Perrow is going to give two English courses in the Harvard Summer School. The Lord have watchful care over all the poor devils who have suffered sub poena Harvardiana. I suppose he has dropped you into a warm cozy berth somewhere. The happiest of summers to you, and shall be glad to get a word. Address me at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Cordially Yours  
G. Fuller.

Cambridge, Mass  
Oct 3, 1909.

My dear Buck:

I have received your letter. May it be one of many. I do not find many of the "old folks" back this year. Stevenson is the only one of the old bunch whom I knew well. Perran is an instructor in the Univ. of Wisconsin. Scoffs was in Columbia during the summer, but I presume has returned to the Univ. of La. - he is intimated his intention in a letter I got in the summer. Jack gets \$1500 in a Methodist college at Greensboro, Ala. Can you give me Hoover's address? Busey, I suppose goes back to Univ. of Ohio at Columbus. Gray is an instructor in History, I saw more luck here. Young Jones I met in the Union the other day. He is to be here I understand. Where is Ott? I haven't heard from him for a long time. I expect to see him popping up for a Doctor's degree somewhere any minute. I guess he was "devilish after it."

I am planning to work this year between Hart here and Ferrand at Yale. A no. - I am not coming up this year. Did you hear Lacroix for plumed? That seems to me insignificant. But there is the work of the big job Channing again.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you get settled into work. I am addressing this to Boston as I do not know of your year's plan, & have lost the Minn. address.

Cordially,  
G. W. Allen.

New Haven, Conn.,  
Jan. 23, 1910.

My dear Buck:

Your good letter read with pleasure. A friendship letter with me these days is a "para avis" - so believe yourself specially favored to get one off the bat - it is a shame that a fellow neglects friends - & then I think we partly get it rubbed into us - for really, it is neglect - there is no use losing all perspective in this idiotic way. Let's us swear the pledge.

It is a change here from last year, - though I had more or less success in my effort to administer painlessly the minimum amount of predigested lore to the labors & lassies of the Rockies. But that is rocky business (A! What a bad pun)

The courses here are all sews - 8 hrs: 2 hrs in early med. hist - 2 hrs in <sup>(Abbott)</sup> Eng. Restoration - 2 hrs in First American State Constitutions (Farrand) - 1 hr. in "Criticism" (Farrand & Adams) - 1 hr "Historical Writers" (Abbott) - all methods courses - how to get facts receives the emphasis here.

Am glad your work is profitable & congenial - am surprised you left the Univ. - temporary?

How did you like Woodburn. - Farrand gives him the devil here - as a man without scholarly tendencies (though the Wright of the criticism is - as you please)

Wm. & Florence remember you very pleasantly.  
Love & regards.

Most cordially  
Gutten

University of Michigan

Department of  
Literature, Science and the Arts

Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 19 1910

Mr. dear Buck:

The memory of old times urges me  
to the pleasant task of dropping a note  
to you.

I have been so busy this summer that  
I have had little time to myself except  
that taken by main force to read the  
daily paper, & play with the baby. I  
think you would scarcely recognize  
now in the big school girl the  
little light-haired frolics you used  
to play with on Putnam Ave. She  
reads! - and of course it is quite  
strange that historical coloring should  
please her best, - seeing I have read to  
her a few million things of the sort  
since she was three years old.

No doubt you hear from the old  
times we knew together in other days.  
I believe Bussey & Hoover are in your

University of Michigan

Department of  
Literature, Science and the Arts

Ann Arbor, Mich. .... 19

province, are they not?  
Can you keep abreast of the  
meteoric flights of S. R.? Do New York's  
troubles give you the right-mane? Look  
out - for the cinders from the best look  
(that's a poor one)

What do you do the coming year?  
I have undertaken to settle  
Michigan - if it doesn't settle me.  
I am sure it was settled - so I am  
sure I have a subject. The Hartford  
Convention can for the nonce go  
to - Hartford.

I am wondering how Turner will  
enjoy his sojourn in the land of  
the sacred codfish & the succulent  
bean.

Mr. Laughlin (Chic.) has worked at next  
table & me here this summer - on the  
Hartford's emerg. of lines. West.

Wishing you the best for the year.

Cordially,  
G. W. L. G. W. L.

#713 Church St.

Ymas Day, 1918

My dear Buck:

Your letter should have been answered a bit ago. I have waited to decide definitely whether I should come to the Assin. I learn by a letter today that Forward of Yale, with whom I am working, is not coming, and I really need the time too badly to break into my work just now when it is not a matter of business.

Kindly remember me to the fellows and accept our wishes to you for a very happy new year.

Sincerely,  
G. S. Keller.

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Lansing  
October  
Twenty-seventh  
1913

My dear Buck:

Your letter of October 23 has been received, having been forwarded to me here from Ann Arbor. I am not now in Ann Arbor but believe me, I shall be next Saturday, to attend the Syracuse game. This will be of course incidental as I shall be in official attendance at the Michigan State Teachers' Association to conduct a round-table on the work of the Michigan Historical Commission.

I am sending you under another cover Bulletin No. 1 of the Commission thinking you might be interested.

It will seem strange this year for us not to be at some center where wisdom is distributed liberally to wondering Freshmen and others. But we enjoy Lansing, and then you know we have the short-horn college here, of which of course I should speak in a more dignified manner since the Aggies put one over on old Ann Arbor. You have also a grudge there too, I believe, with the same score 12-7 served up to Wisconsin. You have learned from your study of the grange movement doubtless that you can never tell what a farmer will do except at four in the morning and about seven-thirty in the evening.

I need not tell you that the field of Michigan history is virgin and that the opportunity of getting in on the work thus early is an opening I am very grateful for. Van Tyne is the leading member of

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our Commission which speaks for the sort of work that we expect to do.

I shall be happy indeed to meet you at the American Historical Association this winter. I shall probably go along with the Ann Arbor bunch but if arrangements could be made I would enjoy your company. Will Hoover and Hulbert go with you? It would be pleasant to hear from some of the other men about their plans and meet them on the way if possible.

My "Economic Beginnings of Southern Michigan" has for some time been ready for the press excepting for the finishing touches which I had hoped to give this summer but which my work on the Commission has, until just recently, made impossible. It will be out some time during the winter. I have read parts of your "Granger Movement" and recognized some of the information you served to Hart's Seminar in other days.

Thank you very much for the Eddy MS. It is very interesting coming at such an early date. I will show it to Burton of Detroit and then you had better keep the original in a dark corner of your vault.

I trust your year will be fruitful of profit and happiness. With best regards from Mrs. Fuller and myself and our two kiddos.

Cordially yours,

*G. N. Fuller*

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Department of History, University of Illinois,  
416 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois.  
GNF/AG

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CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph.D., ANN ARBOR

Lansing, Michigan,  
November 3, 1913.

My dear Buck:

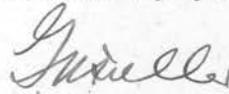
Yours of October 29 is at hand. You are very right that there are many ways in which men associated with the different commissions can cooperate, and in particular in which we can cooperate. I shall go to Charleston if possible. It is my understanding that the Ann Arbor men will meet the special car from Chicago at Cincinnati. It seems to me now, that we may be able to get together on the way.

Regarding your mention of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, do you mean you wish a set of these for your own use or for the use of the library? Personally, of course, I should be most happy to send you an individual set, but statutory limitations hold us down to exchanges outside of the State. Kindly let me know whether the University set is complete.

I have received with this mail a letter from Doctor Alvord in which he speaks of his set lacking volumes 8-19, inclusive. I assume that this refers to the University library. I was very glad to hear from him and note the heartiness with which he offers cooperation.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Illinois.  
GNF/OG

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CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph.D., ANN ARBOR

Lansing, Michigan,  
November 14, 1913.

My dear Buck:

It occurs to me <sup>that</sup> as chairman of the  
Conference of Historical Societies, you might have  
a list of the State Historical Societies and  
Commissions that have been organized since the latest  
entries in the ~~Hand~~ Book of Learned Societies and  
the annual association report for 1905. If so will  
you kindly send me a copy of it to help to complete  
our mailing list.

Cordially yours,

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
University of Illinois,  
Champaigne, Ill.  
GNE/OG

*G. Fuller*

Secretary.

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*Special sent to  
Charles...*

Lansing, Michigan,  
November 20, 1913.

My dear Buck:

In response to your favor of November 17:

I think it is possible that some of the unfortunate statutory limitations on the distribution of our publications may be removed at the next session of the legislature. In the meantime I am going to take the responsibility of sending you a set of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections and of completing Dr. Alvord's set. Your set will be technically a loan and will be made a permanent possession as soon as possible. This will give you practically all the advantages of possession at once. You will be interested to know that a new index is to be made for the entire set which I hope may measure up to the standards of modern indexing.

May I suggest without anyone knowing I am the sponsor for the suggestion that the men representing the states of the Old Northwest who may be present at Charleston get together for a little conference of our own on matters of mutual interest. You are in a position to bring it about very ~~carefully~~ carefully.

I note your statement about the mailing list of the Conference of Historical Societies and shall be glad to have a copy of the part that will be of service to us as soon as you get it ready.

Cordially yours,

*G. Fuller*  
Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Ill.  
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Lansing, Michigan,  
November 28, 1913.

My dear Buck:

In response to your favor of November 25:

By the suggestion of a conference of men representing the States of the Old Northwest at Charleston, I meant of course a very informal meeting in which we could get personally acquainted, smoke some good cigars, etc. I feel much like Wenley of the University who said to me the other day in Ann Arbor that if they would cut out the confounded papers at the meeting of the American Philosophical Association he would be inclined to attend. He wants personal contact with his colleagues working in other parts of the nation. Personal acquaintance certainly does go a long way in effecting worth-while cooperation.

May I inquire whether you know of ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> project on foot to compile the legislation of the different states during the past decade relating to historical work, historical organizations, etc. I wish we might bring together for our own use at least such <sup>a</sup> compilation~~s~~ for the States of the Old Northwest. It seems to me ~~the~~ larger compilation would enable us to take stock of the general progress; better to know where we now are and what is yet to be most immediately undertaken. Such a compilation could be supplemented by the proceedings and annual reports of the various societies from which could be determined the working-ability of the legislation.

You are very welcome to the loan of the volumes and I much regret that the statute does not permit giving you permanent possession of them. The statute says nothing about loans.

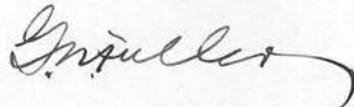
Solon Buck, 2.

Personally, however, I am inclined to use to its full capacity all the rubber we can find in that document. I believe Professor Alvord's set was given him in recognition of service rendered at one or more of the annual meetings of the Society. If we cannot get the statute remedied possibly you could at some convenient time address the Society. It would be a personal delight to have you do so and unquestionable of great profit to us to have you speak upon your personal experience in local historical work in Illinois.

Believe me

Very sincerely,

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Ill.  
GNF/OG



Secretary.

PS. The receipt of some mail from you turned over to the office by Mr. Pattengill leads me to say that the Secretary of the Commission is now also Secretary of the Pioneer and Historical Society, in fact the personnel of the Commission is practically that of the directing body of the Society. It is our policy to keep the two under one head and thus insure unity and coherence in the work.

GA

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Lansing  
November  
Thirtieth  
1913

My dear Buck:

Kindly put me in touch with the men who are pushing for the 1818 celebration in Illinois. I know of Dr. G.L. Smith and Senator Keller but do not have their addresses. Thank you for the favor.

Sincerely yours,

*G. Fuller*

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Illinois.  
GNF/AG

*Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Heam  
Urbana, Ill.*

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Lansing, Michigan,  
December 5, 1913.

My dear Buck:

Replying to your letter of December first, I should be indeed glad to have you incorporate in your report the little suggestion about cooperation of the men in this field. I think that idea was once before presented to the Association, when Roosevelt was President of the Association. Nothing came of it. I surmise that the Mississippi Valley Association may have felt that it might develop into a formal organization, which might weaken their interests. The work of that body certainly needs stronger support, but there is no danger to them that I can see from the spirit of fraternal cooperation which after all is really the substance of the suggestion that lies in my mind.

*Your* set of the Michigan Collections was shipped via the M.C.R.R. I do not know by what road they would reach Urbana after leaving that line.

I am impressed that your position as Secretary of the Conference of the Historical Societies in the nation should entitle you to full possession of these volumes and I am going to present the matter from this point of view to the Commission at their next meeting.

It is my present plan to connect with the Chicago special at Cincinnati for Charleston. I wish very much we could get together on the way. It seems to me that the good fellowship which might be developed

Solon J. Buck 2.

by such a carload of good sports might have some good results, historically. It would pave the way for a very friendly intercourse during the Association meeting.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Müller", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Illinois.  
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Lansing, Michigan,  
December 6, 1913.

My dear Buck:

Thank you very much for the details in your letter about the 1918 celebration. I am specially interested in your statement that you may be called upon to prepare the volumes. Let us hope they will give you a perfectly free hand. Kindly keep me informed of the developments. Our centennial will not come of course until 1937, a little early to be getting ready for it now. It is possible however, that we may do something by way of celebration of the eightieth birthday of the State in 1917. It is very interesting to me to collate all information obtainable on these different problems of popular activities. How interesting it may be to <sup>just</sup> them in practise is a question that must be left to the future.

I read with interest your separate on "The New England Element in Illinois Politics before 1833". You have follow<sup>d</sup> somewhat the method I have chosen for my chapter on the population of Michigan, 1805-37. This is the sort of local work that needs very much to be done. I am much interested also in the idea of sectional studies of national elements in the population of the Old Northwest. Doubtless you are acquainted with the work Mrs. Kate Everest Levy has done for Wisconsin.

A matter of personal interest which occurred to me sometime ago I would like to mention; the consummation of the idea were devoutly to be wished. Are you not just the man to succeed Doctor Thwaites? Any way I cannot think of anyone that I would rather see in that position.

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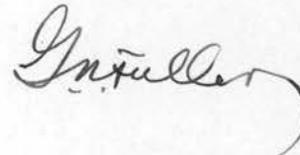
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CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph.D., ANN ARBOR

Buck 2 .

Please let me know of your Charleston  
plans as early as you have them completed.

Cordially yours,

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
University of Illinois,  
Urbana, Illinois,  
GNF/OG



Secretary.

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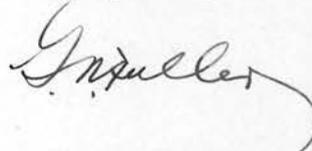
Lansing  
December  
Eleventh  
1913

My dear Buck:

Another point that occurs to me which might be included in your report, if you think well of it, is in connection with historical museums. The American Association of Museums is doing an excellent work in bringing about helpful relationships among museums in general. It does not deal specifically however with the museums of historical societies. As you probably know, Paul M. Rea, the Secretary, has his headquarters in the museum at Charleston. Would it not be a good idea if a committee on museums were appointed by the American Historical Association to cooperate with the Committee on Museum Promotion of the American Association of Museums? It seems to me that the museum of every historical society also ought to be vitally connected up with the American Association of Museums.

This may be a pipe dream, which however your good judgment will resolve into its elements and properly appraise. There may be some kernel anyway that will suggest something to you along this line.

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall, University of Illinois,  
Urbana, Illinois.  
GNF/AG

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Lansing, Michigan,  
December 13, 1913.

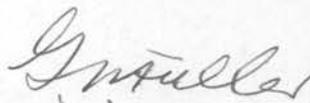
My dear Buck:

I think the car conference would be just the idea, at least as a preliminary. I will be there, to leave with you at 6:30 p.m. December 27. They have given me lower 12, pretty close to 13.

You should be complimented with the possession of the job at Madison. Perhaps the suggestion that you ought to have it may do by way of preliminary. The one thing that I can see in the way would be politics. Now is the chance to get in on the practical side of your political science.

Am glad you like the Collections. There is likely to be a special meeting of the Commission before I see you and I will bring up then the question of your having permanent possession of these volumes.

Cordially yours,



Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Ill.

Secretary.

GNE/OG

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

GEORGE NEWMAN FULLER, Ph.D., Secretary

CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM

Mrs. M. B. FERREY

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LAWTON T. HEMANS, - - - MASON  
CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph.D., ANN ARBOR

Lansing, Michigan,  
December 15, 1913.

My dear Buck:

There is a little matter that seems to me worth suggesting in connection with your report. It occurs to me that it would be very useful to historical workers if they could have up-to-date information about the activities of the Association. I never have been able to see why the annual reports should always be published at least one year behind time. Could not the report be published tentatively even if only in outline, in the American Historical Review? I refer, of course, particularly to the reports of the various committees. They are of much ~~more~~ interest to me, and I believe they would be to many, than the lucubrations of the president of the Association, however wise and valuable. This is only a suggestion, not a criticism. There may be difficulties in the way that I do not see, but at least I would like to know what the difficulties are.

I observe in the list of societies and commissions which you were kind enough to send me, no mention of historical commissions in Maine and Virginia and no reference to work of a similar nature being done under the auspices of the state library or the department of education as, for instance, in Indiana and New York. It would be very convenient to have a complete list of all of the agencies engaged in this work so that we could keep mutually up-to-date as to ways, means and methods. Would it not be possible to have a committee appointed on

*Are there Commissions in Maine & Virginia?  
I find references to them. — (1906+?)  
See 6<sup>th</sup> Ann. Rep. Dept. of Archives & History, State of  
Mississippi p. 20. (Does not mention Commissions  
but "Dept. of Hist. Work")*

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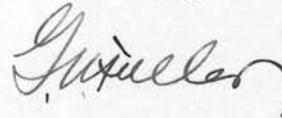
Gov. WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, ex-officio  
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S.J. Buck, 2.

methods of organization and work in state historical societies and commissions which might bring up-to-date the work of <sup>the</sup> Inwaites-Shambaugh-Riley <sup>Committee</sup> recorded in volume ~~one~~ of the annual report for 1905 ( pages 249-325). Such a committee might also compile the statutes relating to state historical work, before mentioned.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Ill.  
GNF/OG

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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EDWIN O. WOOD, - - - - FLINT  
LAWTON T. HEMANS, - - - MASON  
CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph.D., ANN ARBOR

Lansing, Michigan,  
December 19, 1913.

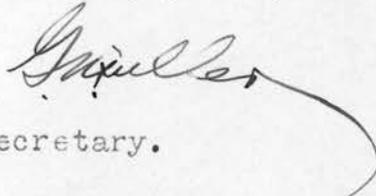
My dear Buck:

I have your letter of December 17, and I am glad indeed that you had thought of the idea of bringing up-to-date the report published in 1905. Of course I knew very well that you were not in anyway responsible for delays in publishing the reports of committees, etc. It seems to me that at least provision might be made that the committees supply tentative reports to those workers who should ask for them.

Regarding the museum work, would it not be possible to have a conference at the Charleston Museum of the men who are interested in historical museums? If this is feasible, would you make up a list of the men who should be included? Would it be out of place to suggest that Paul Rea of the American Association of Museums, who could be with us at such a conference, speak briefly to the Historical Association regarding the relation of the new activities of the museum association to historical museums connected with the different historical societies represented? What would be the necessary steps to secure him an invitation to give such a talk?

Cordially yours,

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
416 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Ill.  
GNF/OG

  
Secretary.