



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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50raigie St

Cambridge Mass

March 30 1904

Dear Mr. Buck,

It is not necessary  
that I should give a formal  
testimonial of your work  
for the scholarship. I expect  
to consider the candidates  
with Mr. Fish.

I liked your work  
very much, and will be  
glad to include you in  
the list of applicants from  
whom choice is to be  
made, but of course I cannot  
yet commit myself.

Please talk to Dr Fish  
about the matter yourself  
You may show him this letter.

Very truly yours

Fredrick J. Turner

June 21 '05

My dear Mr Buck

Of course you might not to think of coming on for your degree when you are ill. That is one of the perfectly satisfactory reasons for absence and there will be no trouble.

Do not think of coming back until you have had a good rest in any case. The work which I planned for you can wait, and if you need the vacation — as I imagine you do — I can get other assistance

I hope your fears will not become typhoid. I have been through a siege of that myself, but I am confident all will come out right

With best wishes and congratulations on your degree, I am  
Cordially yours  
Frederick Turner

629 Francis St

Madison Wisconsin

Nov. 4, 1906

My dear Mr Buck,

Thank you for sending  
the blue prints. Will you not let  
me know what to pay for them,  
as I did not keep a memorandum  
of the cost.

We are enjoying the new men  
this year, Professor Ross and Professor  
Serris, and a good crop of graduate  
students - more than last year in  
history and a promising body.

You have an excellent group  
of men to work with at Harvard.  
Before you leave, you ought also  
to get a course, at least, with  
Professor Haskins. I presumed  
you would find it desirable not

to try to hasten the degree, <sup>and you</sup> were certain to determine that best for yourself. Harvard is a place that you can well afford to spend more than a year in, if it is possible, especially since all your previous training has been in the west

The Granger Movement is a big opportunity for work; its real significance appears more clearly now than it did a few years ago, and I hope you will make the most of the chance. Let me hear from you again. I should be glad to know of your work. With  
good wishes  
Cordially yours

Fredrick J. Turner

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 23, 1909.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,  
Indiana University,  
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Mr. Buck:

I have your letter of the 22d, and shall be glad to bear in mind what you write with regard to a position for next year. I shall be glad to furnish information on your very good work here at any time.

Very sincerely yours,

*Fredrick J. Turner*

(Copy)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

March 9, 1906.

To the Secretary of Harvard University--

Dear Sir:

I desire to recommend for a graduate fellowship in history, Mr. S. J. Buck, sometime fellow in American history in this University, and now Assistant in the same subject.

Mr. Buck is a man of distinct promise and has shown himself able to grapple with a historical problem, earnestly, with insight, and with excellent command of the apparatus. His work is accurate and thorough. He has initiative-- a quality not so common as it ought to be among graduate students.

Personally he is an agreeable and well appearing young man.

I shall be glad to furnish further information if desired. Perhaps I should add that I selected him to assist me personally in some work last summer vacation on a historical study, and that I was pleased with his reliable and efficient work, under close scrutiny,

Faithfully yours,

Frederick J. Turner.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 3, 1910.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,  
904 S. Busey Ave.,  
Urbana, Ill.

My dear Mr. Buck:

I have just returned from a fortnight in Philadelphia, and find your letter and manuscript, which I shall open at the first opportunity. I am writing now merely to let you know that it arrived safely.

With thanks, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*F. J. Turner,*

*Per L.*

627 Francis St

Madison Wisconsin

June 24, 1910

My dear Buck

I have been waiting to see you personally to tell you how good a piece of work I think you are doing on the Grangers - Your paper I gave to Professor Meyer at his request, and your suggestion through him. I have some things to talk over with you about it.

But I cannot delay telling you how much I appreciate the generous words you write on the occasion of my leaving. They are deeply appreciated and reciprocated.

I found your assistance very valuable and learned to rely on your work. You are bound to go on increasingly in the opening of new historical territory and you

are one of the men on whom I rely  
to continue the prospecting and mining  
in the areas that I have only  
looked at.

With thanks and good wishes..

Sincerely

Mr. Solon J. Buck  
University of Illinois

Yours truly  
Frederick S. Turner

1195, Brattle St  
Cambridge, Mass<sup>tts</sup>

January 4, 1911

My dear Buck:

I have been reading your paper with much interest, in my new book, which is such a joy to the eye and a satisfaction to the pride of the father of a family! Let me add in thanking you, that I learned that you were the prize winner a close second, that some of the men on the committee regarded your essay as showing more independent thought and power of research, and that you got second place, but that you were not announced for "honorable mention," because in the opinion of the men

the essay was "too good" to have that  
term applied to it. I think you  
have reason to be contented considering  
the shortness of the time, and the emphasis  
which the committee placed on form,  
for while this is important, and especially  
when the contest is close, it is something  
more easily added than the other qualities.

I think the essay on Independent Parties  
is a clear cut piece of work which will  
stand.

With thanks and good wishes,

Sincerely

Yours truly

Fredrick J. Turner

175 Brattle St

Cambridge Mass<sup>#</sup>

May 24, 1911

Dr Herbert Putnam

Librarian of Congress

My dear Dr Putnam: This will introduce to you my former student Mr. S. J. Buel, research assistant at the University of Illinois, who is doing some work in library collections for the State Historical Library of Illinois. He is a thoroughly competent investigator and will appreciate and justify any facilities which you may be able to afford him.

With respect, I am,

Mrs Sincere

Fredrick Turner

April. 29, 1912.

My dear Prof. Finner.

The Appleton people have returned my Granger cloth to me with the statement that it is not, in their opinion "a book which would produce a sufficient amount of sales to justify us in undertaking its publication." I ~~was not~~ had rather expected this answer and so was not particularly disappointed, but I do regret the ~~time~~ delay which has resulted from submitting it to them. I am coming to you now for advice as to what I had better do with it. You spoke of the possibility of publishing it in the H. H. I and Prof. Carver wrote me some time ago offering to have it considered for publ. in the H. C. S. I would of course much prefer to have it in the hist. studies and would not hesitate a moment

to ~~not~~ submit it for consideration were it not for what you said about there being several other works which would have to come out first. It has been delayed ~~now~~ so much already that I am anxious to have it appear as soon as possible.

Prof. Alford feels pretty sure that some western firm would be willing to handle it and from conversation I had some time ago with A. H. Bland, I think he would be likely to give it favorable consideration. He is abroad now, however, and would not be able to go into the matter before fall. I have written to the Torch Press about it and have sent them a copy of the table of contents and preface. I shall not ~~send~~ submit the ms., however, unless there seems to be considerable prospect of a favorable ~~consideration~~ <sup>disposition</sup>.

securing of funds for the  
prosecution of our work.

We had a meeting of the  
Museum Club last Friday  
night ~~with~~ w/ Prof. Knutson  
to tell us about some of  
the new activities at Wisconsin.  
There are about fifty or so  
people here and we had 35  
at the meeting. ~~I found~~

~~quite a few~~ but dubious  
I had the misfortune of  
being chosen ~~chairman~~ President  
of the club for the coming  
year. I say misfortune  
for, so far as I can learn,  
the club has no dues and  
the President is expected to  
provide entertainment for it  
~~at least once during the year.~~

At least Professor H and  
has so interpreted his  
duties as President during  
the past two years.

Professor Thompson of the  
Univ. of B.

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I want to congratulate you upon

3  
~~for I do not wish to see it up  
for another time and the  
I will appreciate it very  
much if you will give me  
the benefit of your advice.~~

I am much more concerned  
about getting it published  
soon than I am about the  
small amount of royalty I  
might possibly receive  
from it; I will appreciate  
it very much if you will  
give me the benefit of  
your advice and will tell  
me how soon about when  
it would probably appear  
if it should be accepted  
for the H. H. S.

~~We are all very much  
interested in what we read  
about the ~~your~~<sup>the</sup> plan for  
collecting materials for  
western history at Harvard  
and hope to learn something  
more definite about it.  
I would not be surprised if  
~~the~~ Harvard's activity would  
react upon the situation  
here and facilitate the~~

153 Brattle St

Cambridge Mass

May 1, 1912

Dear Buck:

I brought up the Granger question at the last department meeting. I suppose by this time you have a letter from Professor Merriam inviting you to submit your ms. for the editors consideration. Of course the printing can't be immediate, but I think you would be "next," and I doubt whether the publication would be ~~any~~ earlier elsewhere. There is no royalty, but probably the book wouldn't be a commercially profitable one - such things are done for the fun of it. -

We hope to make our Harvard Commission - Western History helpful.

and should like to hear of duplicates  
etc.- We aren't trying to get into  
our neighbors' hen roosts, but if there  
are any extra chickens we would like  
them, and of course we should accept  
interstate material anyway - Already  
we are getting some useful journals  
etc, that wouldn't come to any place  
but Harvard in any case.

I'll send you before long a Western  
whoop which I have recently written  
for the Harvard's Graduate Magazine  
now in press

Yours cordially

Fredrick Johnson

How many words in your work?

Nov 1, 1912

Dear Buck:

I have been so busy getting  
under way that I haven't yet gotten  
after Robinson, and don't know  
just the status of the preparation  
of the Grange MS for press.

But I'm writing now to ask if  
you have used J. Coulter's Organiza-  
tion among the Farmers of the U.S.,  
Yale Review, Nov. 1909? Probably

you have all that is worth using of  
it already - the book, but I had  
forgotten seeing some of the points  
which he makes regarding the MS  
or in your separate studies.

The Centralia Mt. meeting of 1854,  
and the Bloomington Convention of  
April 20, 1869 seem interesting precedents  
of the Grange movements. Similar

material on the earth is to the point -

But I doubt not you will  
answer that it is already there!

If you have included it as anterior  
to your study, I shouldn't do so; for  
it shows that the movement was  
taking form before the oranges.

Cordially yours

Frederic J. Turner

PROPERTY OF THE  
570 SPRUETT ST.  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Nov. 14 1912

Dear Buck,

Robinson will incorporate your recent corrections - half an hour's work - and on order of the Chairman of the Dept. Prof Merriam, who assures me he will give the order at once, will send it to have the publishing agent, where it will go through the mill. I'll let you know when I can ascertain just how soon the publication will be effected. All that you say about reasons for its seeing daylight I agree with; but I find it difficult to "hurry to East," and you can at least be sure of a good looking book! The maps are with them.

If I were you, I would get some Wisconsin friends to have the Prairie Farmer for 1858 searched, if it is there (Agric. Library perhaps, if not in W.H.S.). If the Illinois farmers really got active before the war,

it is important to mention it - at least  
a line or two in the text. Such discontent  
at a still earlier period, as Myers brings  
out in his Early Railroad Wages. - Wis.,  
Wis. H. Colls. XIV., would probably find repre-  
sentation in subsequent years, I should  
expect, even though it was sporadic <sup>and</sup>  
not typical. I should think it worth while  
however to indicate the continuation of the  
wooloco movement into the granger  
movement if there is any such continuity,  
even though tenuous.

Had you read The Guide. The  
determination of the place - the program  
of the Mass. V. Heat Assoc. was made after  
consulting its president, as I understand  
it. I ~~find~~ <sup>find</sup> the same difficulty. But

it is easier to see the conflicts than to find an uncontested place, for such interests as the conference of historical societies have to be considered, as well as the probable time of arrival of the western contingent, and the joint sessions with Pol Sc Assoc, re-

Thompson's health is an important factor = the question of his ~~own~~ degree. If he risks an upset by change of residence (and I'm not sure that the elevation, humidity, relaxation etc. of his year here didn't affect him) he would better not risk it. Also he takes fewer chances by coming up among those who know his work more at close range than the committee here. I shall not influence his decision. He can work with your group to advantage both in material, and direction. There is something to be said for having two strings to one's bow so far as training

goes; but Thompson would get less out  
of his two years here, separated by the  
intermediate period, than if they had been  
continuous years, so that the thing would  
sink in.

I like him and shall be glad to see  
him if he comes.

I hope elections did not knock your  
survey plans. The Eddy MAS sound useful  
Where are they? Let me know when  
you come East

Yours cordially  
Frederic S. Turner

THE HARVARD COMMISSION ON WESTERN HISTORY

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

May 15, 1912

Dear Bux:

I have your thesis, and am about to take it up with my colleagues on the Committee.

The problem of standardizing it for the printer will be one of the things that must be considered, if (as I think) the committee recommends publication. Miss Rowe, who does this work for the Studies has her hands full until fall, and this may delay.

The charts as well as the maps would have to be redrawn for the Studies, and the color system replaced by black and white. I presume that only an expert, or at least an engineer, could do the maps. The graphic charts also should have

lettering, figures, etc done either by a  
skilful draughtsman, or where practicable  
by print. Nothing is more unpleasant  
than amateur lettering or in reproduced  
charts & maps. The ink must  
also be India or black carbon otherwise  
it doesn't photograph properly—

Qry. would this best be sent to  
some house that does this; or have  
you the facilities there to have it done  
right. I suppose the cost would  
fall on the author.

Let me have your own ideas  
on this at your earliest convenience.  
The size of the book, I suspect  
will be somewhat larger than your  
estimate; but I may have guessed  
wrongly. I'll submit this to the  
office here for estimate. But I don't  
think this is a serious problem

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Your ~~the~~ flag letters are good stuff,  
and I like the suggestion of cooperation.  
Tell me what you feel you can  
about the location of material  
in missions or in the East.

We have just rec'd from  
Ab Mr Davis and his brother Horace Davis  
the diary of their father Senator John  
Davis of Mass., who visited Ill.  
in the 40's to report to Barry Bros  
on the advisability of loaning money  
for the Ill canal. There is some  
good material — not much, <sup>but</sup>  
an acct of his European journey  
when he went to report. Whether  
Mr. Davis would be willing to have  
it copied in part for your library,

don't know. I shouldn't like to  
act without his approval. Most of  
the doc't deals with other than Illinois  
matters.

If you think it worth while,  
I'll raise the question

Yours truly  
Frederick Furness

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153 Brattle St

May 24 1912

My dear Buck:

I have a report from the publication office to the effect that it estimates your thesis at about 105 000 words, the cost of ~~re~~redrawing & preparing the charts and maps at sixty or seventy dollars probably; this to be charged to the author (this doesn't include making of plates, which falls on the publisher). Mr. Robinson, Sean Haskin's secretary, has been doing standardization as well as Miss Rawe, and he could probably do this on vacation. Just how much this would amount to I can't say, except that in one or two prior volumes it has been about

fifty dollars. I should "guess" it at  
about that in the case of your volume.

This charge also lies against the author.  
But on the other hand it greatly reduces  
the proof corrections. Those <sup>corrections which deviate</sup> ~~deviating~~ from  
the copy also fall upon the author, so it  
is desirable to have the copy as correct  
as possible before it incurs printer's  
proof charges for corrections. It is, as  
you know, much more economical.

Prof. [Name] is looking over the thesis with  
a view to determine whether he can  
recommend the saving of money by  
omitting any of the charts & maps.  
If you think some of them not  
essential please inform me at  
your early convenience; <sup>and</sup> I will transmit  
his suggestions to you.

Ten or twelve copies have usually been the author's allowance.

Thanks for the Report. You are doing a work of importance and one which I hope other states will profit by. We need much of that work as a basis for understanding our national social and economic history, and the resultant political history.

Yours truly

Frederick Turner

Frederick Turner

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EDGAR H. WELLS, *Secretary*, Boston

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

153 Brattle St. June 11, 1912

Dear Buck:

Professor Gay and I have given careful consideration to the question of maps and charts - your groups movement, studying them in connection with the text. We both agree that charts 1 (corn) <sup>and</sup> 2 (wheat); <sup>and</sup> 5 <sup>and</sup> 6 (acreage) and 6 (value) can be combined, <sup>making only two</sup> ~~on the same~~ plates, without any ~~so~~ loss of clearness.

Also that chart 1 for ch. ii, "illustrating developmt of order of Patrons of A. from May 1, 1873 to Oct. 1876, based on number of groups per 100,000 of pop engaged in agr." can be omitted. The maps give this data better, and the text alone

would suffice.

Also that the following maps may be omitted without loss and should be:

map I -	Propos <sup>n</sup> of Granges	May 19, 1873
III	" "	Oct 18 1873
V	" "	Sept 1, 1874
VII	" "	Nov 1875
IX	Sensory of Granges -	Sept 1, 1874

What is most significant  
is the figures, and these  
don't need ~~the~~ all the maps.

The text gives the substance of these changes; the graphic representation in map form do not seem to us sufficiently significant to warrant the added expense & <sup>of VIII</sup> ~~of VIII~~ maps II + IV, (retained) give the essential changes from the point of view of historic significance; <sup>the other</sup> and do not <sup>sufficiently</sup> add to the text in our judgment. Map IX doesn't seem sufficiently significant to warrant publication.

since the ratios to square miles, with  
the state as the unit, and without  
localizing the centers doesn't seem  
to us to add much, and might  
be misleading. Possibly a map of  
proportion to total population would  
be a useful substitute if desired.

In the case of a movement growing  
so rapidly, in so brief a time, there seems  
to be no such need of frequent mapping  
at the ~~the~~ minutes intervals. Considering them in  
connection with the text we don't see the necessity.

Regarding the standardizing,  
the question is not one of footnotes alone  
but of ~~the~~ those minor points of style also  
which the author doesn't see for himself.  
All the work of the men here, and of the  
Studies especially is submitted to the

standardizing and shaping, and we don't see how it could be done to advantage to satisfy the needs of the series except by one who is accustomed to the work.

By omitting the maps noted and ~~condensing~~ combining the charts as above suggested you would save enough to make the standardizing less burdensome. The fifty dollars is an estimate, probably maximum.

Before making a final report I should like your approval of this plan.

I will ascertain about the index and write you later.

Yours truly

Frederick Turner

THE HARVARD COMMISSION ON WESTERN HISTORY

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EDGAR H. WELLS, *Secretary*, Boston

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

153 Brattle St. June 13 1912

Dear Buck:

I wrote you a day or so ago, <sup>and</sup>  
then either mailed or mislaid the letter, I'm  
not sure which: so this may be no. 2  
on the same theme.

1. Regarding the maps & charts: Professor  
Gay <sup>and</sup> I have read the chapters involved, <sup>and</sup>  
are of the opinion that maps I, III, V, VII, IX

and chart 1 (ch. ii) can be omitted; while charts  
1 (corn) and 2 (wheat) can be combined on one

plate and 5 (acreage) and 6 (value) on another.  
We strongly urge this solution as the best.  
This will be an important saving to you

and we both agree that the remaining maps  
give all the visual data needed to explain  
and emphasize the text. The movement

doesn't seem to us to require exhibition  
at such frequent intervals as the omitted  
maps afford; what statistics you wish

to preserve (in the appendix for example) out  
of the data - these maps can be succinctly  
and inexpensively given in tables; and it is  
these statistics rather than their visual  
representation which support the text. The  
reader turns (if he gives critical examina-  
tion at all) to the figures rather than to the  
map shadings for these intermediate periods.  
By selecting the more important maps you  
give the reader more real aid than by  
so many.

The map on Sensitization Sept', 1874  
by square miles, with states as the units,  
does not seem to either of us really signif-  
icant; and indeed it might be misleading.  
If it gave actual locations in smaller  
units it might be of more value, <sup>and</sup>  
perhaps, if it seemed useful to you, a  
map might be substituted giving  
proportions to actual total population; but  
we don't advise this either.

Regarding standardizing, the series  
has to be uniform, and it is not only  
the matter of punctuation, style of footnotes  
etc., involved; but also minor matters  
of style, language etc., which all publishers  
insist upon. I don't mean that the thesis  
needs re-writing; all the men here <sup>including</sup>  
~~are~~ <sup>coolidge, Gross, Channing, etc.</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> glad to have such a revision of their little  
slips, and find it financially advantageous  
to do it in copy rather than pay printers  
corrections. This work you will find it best to  
have done here as the others have ~~been~~.  
Secretary Robinsonson of the Graduate  
School has done such work acceptably for  
some of the volumes. He tells me, after  
looking over the MS., that ~~at~~ his charge  
would be not less than \$50, nor more  
than \$75. This seems quite reasonable.  
He can do it during vacation time.

The index is prepared by the author at  
his cost, and this can be done by your  
index.

Please let me hear from you promptly  
regarding these matters as I wish to  
report before the men scatter.

Cordially yours

Fredrick Turner

153 Brattle St

(Cambridge Mass

June 25-1912

Dear D Buck:

I have sent you by Am. Express  
today the first 2 chapters and all  
maps & charts for your use in  
emending the text. The balance is  
in the hands of Mr. George W. Robinson,  
Secy of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
24 University-Hall, Harvard University.  
Please negotiate directly with him  
regarding the rest of the standardizing  
as I shall be away. I enclose receipts  
of the Am. Ex. Co. (It will be best,  
I think, to return the two chapters  
and the illustration material to him

soon in order that he may get to work  
on it promptly, and he will probably need  
these two chapters in order to work  
on the rest.

One series of density figures will  
be sufficient.

My address will be as above,  
mail being forwarded. I shall go  
west for a fortnight - a few days  
and then to Hancock Point, Maine,

Yours truly  
Frederick Turner