



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.
August 27, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
University Club,
Madison, Wisconsin.

My dear Buck:

I have a letter from Stock today in which he enclosed a bill from ~~Miss~~^{rs} Louise F. Pierce for clerical service, 139 hours, from April 9th to date. Total of the bill is \$55.80. Will you tell me what institution ought to pay this bill, and let me know as soon as you can; and don't pile it all on the University because I began to fear that the University money has been used too extensively to suit Dean Kinley, for this Washington work.

Sincerely yours,

C W Alvord

CWA/EC

140
- 4

560

Alvord

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
HISTORICAL REVIEW

CLARENCE W. ALVORD
MANAGING EDITOR

418 LINCOLN HALL URBANA, ILLINOIS

September 4, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Buck:

In looking over the records of the managing editor I find that you have been sent "Slavery in Missouri" and "The Political and Sectional Influence of the Public Lands 1828-1842", for purposes of review.

Since volumes are sent by the publishers with the expectation of receiving reviews in our pages and since our magazine is very youthful and has its reputation still to make, I wish to fulfill the implied contract that was entered into when I asked for copies of volumes for review purposes.

The next number of the Review will go to press on the 20th of October. Will you be so kind as to make every effort to furnish me the reviews by that time.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

416 Lincoln Hall,

Urbana, Illinois,

September 8, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

Miss Doherty informs me that the University has not sent your warrant yet but will send it immediately to the University of Minnesota so that you ought to get it at the same time that you receive this.

The door has been cut between your old office and the main office and it makes our suite of rooms look very elegant, also saves lots of steps.

I received a consignment of photostats from the Library of Congress the other day and Miss Kile is sorting them for me. I have not heard anything from Stock concerning Mrs. Pierce's bill but expect to in a day or two.

Carter is still with me working hard. We have proof for the first volume and about two-thirds in revised proof so you see things are moving rapidly.

I still continue to forget to write that check for \$2.50 but you have patience and some day the memory and the check book will coincide.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
September 14, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

Find enclosed check for \$2.50 which
I owe you.

The people are beginning to come back and the
campus is again alive. My office force is here and
we are working hard enough to make a good appear-
ance.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alford

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
September 16, 1914.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

I am sending you a couple of letters from Leet which I opened by mistake. The first one I kept because I thought that the photostat copies were here in the office but I do not seem to be able to locate them and suppose that you finally took them with you. If you did not, let me know and I will send them.

I suppose the bill - \$25 - is for these copies unless it is a bill that we have already passed upon and they have not yet received the check.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

*Had. May Post.
Miss West Post.
2 d. class mail matter.
Eddy M.S.*

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
September 22, 1914

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

This is just a note to tell you that Kelly is going, as acting head of the art department, to Ohio State. His position will be assistant professor at a salary of \$2300. I am writing this in case no one has told you.

Your note was received today and I will take up the matter later. I enclose, however, the form that Quaife has worked out. Remarks are unnecessary.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

*P.S. Best regards to your family
and Ford's*

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
September 24, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

Let me congratulate you upon the showing of your new course in Western History. It beats my course all hollow. We started off very well, however. I have ~~six~~^{seven} students in 105, five of them candidates for their doctor's degree and taking their second year graduate work.

I will answer your various questions:

We have not had time yet to collate the transcripts from the Indian office photos but will do so as soon as possible. The same is true in the case of the census of 1810.

I set Miss Kile at work to arrange the Indian office stuff as it came in and she did it very acceptably, checked it up very carefully finding a few errors - one or two made by you and the rest made in Washington.

I will tell Miss Doherty to send your second class mail along.

You may be interested to know that Miss Kile went to Belleville recently in search of German material and other matters and got into communication with the

owner of the Messenger papers. She called me up by long distance telephone and I went down in a hurry and we secured the right to copy them. I have not had time to do more than look them over but on the whole think they do not amount to very much; one letter of Kinney, however, of 1812 concerning politics is a dandy.

Since I was in Belleville I received a letter from Miss Whiteside informing me of the existence of another collection which she thinks I can get without much trouble. Miss Morehouse also has written me about a collection which I can have for the asking and for which I have asked.

Mrs. Alvord has been away for two weeks but I expect her home tomorrow. Genevieve is at the Pi Phi House getting particularly well worn out.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Alvord

September 29, 1914

Professor Clarence W. Alvord,
416 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Ill.

Dear Alvord:

I am in receipt of your letters of September 22th and 24.th I was quite surprised to learn of Kelley's move as I supposed that deal had fallen through entirely. I am very glad he has landed the position because I think he was entitled to more than he was getting at Illinois. I wrote him a letter at Urbana just a day or two before I received your note.

I received my copy of the second number of the Review and looked it over with great interest. Quaife's article was especially interesting to me, of course. I think the publication of Melvin's note, criticising as it does, some of your work, is something of which you can justly be proud. The reviews are excellent, but I wish that a larger proportion of them might deal with books in the field of Mississippi Valley history, or at least might point out the western aspects of general books. I notice that you do this in most of your own reviews.

By the way, did you receive a copy of the September number of the Indiana Magazine of History? And if so, did you notice what Esarey has to say about the first number of the Review? I smiled broadly when I read it. I suppose I should be very grateful to him for exempting me from the general condemnation.

D. W. Alvord - 2

I am enclosing some sheets from the University of Illinois Transcripts of the Eddy Manuscripts which were carried off by me by mistake. They were with some copies of them which I had had made and got packed up along with the rest of my files. They can easily be returned to their proper places in your files.

I am glad to know that you have finally gotten hold of the Messenger Papers. Your impression of them coincides in general with mine. I have always doubted that they would have sufficient value for Illinois history to warrant copying them.

There was forwarded to me from Urbana a letter from the Evening Wisconsin Company of Milwaukee, stating that they were sending to me under separate cover, a copy of a "reference book" which they had just published. I gather that this is a history of Milwaukee and Wisconsin. They asked me to make mention of the work in the next issue of the M. V. H. R. I suppose Usher is responsible for sending this and is probably under the impression that I have some official connection with the Review. If you will forward the work to me, I shall be glad to write a note about it for the Review if satisfactory to you.

I have not received any second class mail from Miss Doherty as yet, but suppose that it is on the way.

Cordially yours,

October 6, 1914.

Professor Clarence W. Alvord,
Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Alvord:

I am sending you enclosed a letter from Mr. Clinton which speaks for itself. I am writing him to the effect that I have turned the letter over to you. I was seriously tempted to appropriate the two one-cent stamps, but finally decided that the Illinois Survey might need them.

I will have four, and possibly five, students writing Masters thesis under my direction this year. All ~~but~~ of them will work in Illinois History during the period 1815-1830. One takes up Indian affairs during that period, another, social conditions, and the other two will take, I think, slavery in Indiana and Illinois Territories and the admission of Illinois to the Union. There is method in my madness, you will see.

What subjects are your graduate students working on? If any of them should happen to conduct researches along lines which would be of assistance to me in the preparation of "Illinois in 1818," I should not feel grieved.

I received a large shipment of second class mail from Urbana and I want to thank both you and Miss Doherty for looking after it. In case any more such mail turns up there, you can use your judgement as to whether or not it should be forwarded. The monthly catalogs of the Victor records, for example, are not worth bothering with.

C. W. Alvord.--2.

The bill from the Library of Congress which I suppose you forwarded to me, has been received. I will O. K. it and send it to Greene, as I understand it is to be paid by the State Historical Library. I have the prints but have not had time to look them over very carefully. I am sure however, that they contain a lot of valuable and hitherto unused material.

If I may be permitted to make a suggestion regarding the M. V. H. R., I think it would be well for whoever is responsible to read proof more carefully on the advertisements. I notice that in the last issue, the word "catalog" is spelled in three different ways, two of which are distinctly original.

By the way, have you secured a reviewer for my bibliog^{og-}rat raphy as yet? If you dont get this reviewed in the next issue, there will be war when we meet.

I had a very interesting letter from Kelley the other day. He writes that he is getting settled and that he has a big job on his hands in reorganizing the work of the department.

I used to think that I was a very busy man when at Illinios, but I have since learned that I led a very leisurely life compared to what I am up against here just at present. It seems to agree with me, however.

C. W. Alvord. -- 3.

Woodburn has consented to open the discussion of "Historical Surveys at State Universities and their relation to other Historical Agencies" at the Conference. Doughty declined to open the discussion of the other subject, "Restrictions on the use of historical materials," and I have asked Burpee to undertake it.

I am counting on you for the discussion of Woodburn's paper and I shall probably ask Libby, Barker and Paine also. For the discussion of other papers, I have put down tentatively Quaife, Fuller, Hulbert, and Miss McIlvaine. Have you any suggestions to offer?

Dr. Schmidt will open the Conference with a paper on the "Chicago Historical Society."

Cordially yours,

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
October 8, 1914.

Handwritten signature and scribbles

Professor Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

Will you have sent immediately to Sioussat a copy of reports at the last confernece of historical societies that will be of assistance to him outside of such information as he will receive from Callahan of West Virginia, Miss Myers of Kentucky and from Owen and Rowland. He has heard from those four and from no others. You probably can give him some information upon the Filson Club and possibly some other information that will be of value. Please do this at once.

I have written to Mr. Clinton by this mail, making him an offer of \$50 for those papers.

You are to be congratulated upon the number of students writing masters' theses with you. I fear that I shall not have any students working along lines that will interest you at all. They do not seem to run that way. I only have two students for their masters' degrees and their fields are not in Illinois history. I have five writing theses for their doctors' degrees only. You may be interested to know that 105 has seven members.

Thanks very much for the hint in regard to the advertisements. I shall demand that this proof be sent to me hereafter. A review of your bibliography is reclining in my desk drawer at the present moment and is very satisfactory.

You may count on me to discuss Woodburn's paper. Did you know that Fuller had resigned from the Michigan Historical Commission and they have appointed Moore in his place, whom I am going to meet next week.

Sincerely yours,

C W Alvord

University of Minnesota

October 13, 1914.

Professor Clarence W. Alvord,

Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Alvord:

I received your letter of October 8 and immediately sent to Sioussat the only report which I received from an institution within his section, the report of the Mississippi Historical Society. I know nothing definite about the Pilson Club, but I am inclined to think that it passed away with Col. Durrett. So Fuller has finally resigned, has he? I had a letter from him a week or so ago in which I gathered that all was not well. While he has had a difficult position I cannot help but feel that a man with more tact and address would have been able to handle it. Who is the Maere who has been appointed in his place? The only one I think of as a possibility is the author of The Northwest under Three Flags.

I wonder if you have received copies of the two following books for the Review. If not, I think you should send for them. The books are: Calahan's Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia, published by the Commission, and Readings in Indiana History, published by the Indiana University.

Professor G. W. Alvord. --3.

I have been reviewing Calahan for the Political Science
Review and find it better than I had expected. I read your
review of Winstanley's "Pitt" in the Nation with much interest.

Sincerely yours,

Minneapolis, Minn.

October 30, 1914.

Professor Clarence W. Alvord,
Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Alvord:

Ford has asked me to serve as chairman of a committee to draw up directions for the preparations of manuscripts for the University Research Publications. My thoughts turned, of course, at once to the set of rules which we drew up last spring at Illinois and a copy of those rules would be of very material assistance to me. If it is not too much trouble, I would appreciate it very much if you will have a copy made and sent to me as soon as possible.

By the way, have you seen anything around the Survey room of a copy of the last volume issued by the American Antiquarian Society. Brigham sent me a copy last year and I am unable to find it among my books. It occurred to me that I might have left it in Lincoln Hall.

Sincerely yours,

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
October 26, 1914.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:

Miss Doherty informs me that the cards in regard to printing have been copied and already sent to you. We have made diligent search for your volume of American Antiquarian Society but so far it has not turned up.

I start next week Thursday for Baltimore and I am expected ^{to} remain East until after Thanksgiving, eating my turkey in Richmond.

Carter has been here with me for the past three or four days and has finished up the introduction to volume I of the British Illinois and has done a very good piece of work. He is going to write the introduction to the second volume, which will be short. There seems to be no doubt about the two volumes being off the press in January. At least, the first volume will be. The Board of Trustees felt a little doubtful

S. J. Buck.
10-26-14

about their right to authorize sending the last three volumes to the press seeing they had no money, but I told them they did have this right. Greene has consulted President James who, however, has not been heard from. Pease's volume is going to press immediately.

Sincerely yours,

C W Alvord

do you like this scheme?

The lectures ^{here} are being
well received. In fact I
seem to have got the boys
going. Give my best regards
to your father & mother and
your cousins. Tell your father
and mother that they must
not begrudge me if I glory
too in your success, for, after
all, you are my boy too.

Sincerely yours

Clarence W. Alvord

JOHNS HOPKINS CLUB
BALTIMORE

November 18, 1914

My dear Buck:

Congratulations
~~to~~ your deserved success. It
is simply great and you
may be certain that no
one rejoices more than I
do. I also feel pleased, for,
although I knew that your
future would come out all
right, still I did worry at
times while you were at Illinois,
as to whether you would be

able to find just the right job, provided you devoted yourself to local research. I knew the time was coming when there would be a call for trained men by the historical societies; but I feared it would be long waiting. Minnesota is now war over. Others must follow. Hurrah!

Your suggestion about a meeting of the trained men in N.W. at Chicago is a good one; but we must consider

The personnel carefully so that we want make enemies, how about Ohio for instance? Should Randall ^{be} who is invited. If we ask Shambaugh, out side the N.W. how about Powell. Think it over and send me your list and I will make one out also and we can compare notes. I will take up the matter with Dr. Schmidt and see if he wont give us a dinner. That would excuse us from any no-date as to invitations and then all these present can make suggestions. How

December 1, 1914

Professor Clarence W. Alvord

Urbana, Ill.

Dear Alvord;-

Your cordial letter of congratulation was deeply appreciated. I am just beginning to find out how big a job I have on my hands. Fortunately the officers and committees of the society show a disposition to co-operate with me in every possible way, and I think that I will get things running to my satisfaction in the course of time.

I am trying now to figure out an itinerary which will allow me to visit Iowa City, Des Moines, Springfield, Urbana, and Madison before and after the Chicago Meetings. It may work out so that I will be in Urbana for Christmas and go up to Chicago with you.

It is certainly difficult to draw the line for our meeting of trained men in charge of state Historical work in Chicago. I should certainly not be in favor of including Randall, as he has not done and gives no promise of doing any scientific work. I would have no objection to Paine, but did not mention him thinking Nebraska seemed rather remote from the region in which we are interested.

Professor Clarence W. Alvord - 2

It might be well to confine it to the Old North West, but in that case all but a small part of my own state would be outside. It seems to me that Iowa and Minnesota have interests in common with the states of the Old North West, and that we might include only the trained workers in this region.

I like your suggestion of having Dr. Schmidt give us a dinner to start the thing off, and it might be well not to include Shambaugh at this time, but to give the matter of personnel further consideration.

I suppose you have received the copy of the preliminary program for the American Historical Association meeting. I sent the blanks for the report to the conference on the work of the Illinois Historical Library to you, as I thought you could probably report more fully than Mrs. Webber. Another blank was sent to Mrs. Webber as secretary of the society, and she will doubtless report about all of the work in Springfield.

I am not responsible for the form and typographical errors in the program for the conference. It strikes me

Professor Clarence W. Alvord - 3

that Thompson has not done a very good piece of work on this program from the standpoint of typographical appearance at any rate.

I note that the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association is again scheduled as a "conference." You know my views on this subject, I think. I am going to advocate the dropping of all attempts to hold meetings of the Mississippi Valley Association in connection with the American Association Meeting in the future, unless arrangements can be made for a regular joint session of the two associations.

I am glad to hear that your lectures were well received, and trust that you and Mrs. Alvord had a very pleasant time in the east.

Sincerely yours

December 4, 1914

Professor Clarence W. Alvord

416 Lincoln Hall

Urbana, Ill.

Dear Alvord:-

You will doubtless be interested in the following quotation from a letter from the first Vice-President of the Publishers Association of Canada, the company which issues Canada and its Provinces. Some time ago I secured an order for a set of this work for the University Library and just recently ordered a set for the society. I gave the agent a separate of my article on Historical Activities. The quotation reads as follows;

"Mr. Devan, on our behalf, no doubt expressed our appreciation of your reference to the publication of "Canada and its Provinces" in your masterly review on Historical Activities in the Old Northwest and Eastern Canada. We did not know of the article until three or four weeks ago, but since seeing the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, we have become an annual subscriber."

Sincerely yours

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
December 5, 1914.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

Since we began our correspondence in regard to a meeting of the trained historians in the Northwest, at Christmas, another matter has come up which interests me and which should interest you. Melvin, as you remember, has started a collection of French explorations in the Northwest. All last summer I was in correspondence, off and on, with the Michigan Historical Commission concerning this work which that commission started some years ago.

A few weeks ago I met the new Michigan man ^{Moore} in Chicago and we talked at some length on the subject. A week ago Wednesday I dined with Moore and Jenks, the latter of whom is president of the Michigan Commission, at the Cosmos Club in Washington. Jamison and Leland were with us and we considered the possibility of a coöperative scheme for publishing all

S. L. Buck
12-5-14

the French explorations of the whole Mississippi Valley. The idea is to find some publisher that will finance the job in the same way that the Jesuit Relations was financed, but having the various state historical institutions guarantee a certain sale.

Since Leland's calendar of Mississippi documents is almost finished, the plan appeals to me, although I have very little idea that the thing can be carried out. It is, however, a very good excuse for a lot of us men who are directly in charge of historical interests in the various states to get together and talk things over. I have pledged myself to Moore to arrange a dinner for this purpose, the idea being to invite about thirty people to said dinner and to discuss the plan at some length.

This is the third meal that I have engaged myself to eat at the meeting of the American Historical Association. The first is on Monday at the meeting of the council and committees of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association; the second is a luncheon on Wednesday with the board of editors of the Review; and this dinner is to be Wednesday evening.

The plan of this larger meeting, ^{the} the one you propose, ~~pose~~, is of course distinctly different in its character.

S. J. Buck
12-5-14

and I should say should not preclude the meeting of the smaller group of men. Still, before doing anything in regard to the latter I feel that I should have your advice.

I am awfully glad you are going to be down here before the meeting of the Association so that we can talk over many things. I should invite you to come to my house during the period but both Genevieve and Nat will be with us and Mrs. Alvord's niece, Claudia Gray, is coming Monday to live with us for some time. However, I shall most decidedly expect you here and hope that you will eat Christmas dinner with us if you have no other more attractive engagement. Other things being equal I imagine a stop at the Club would be pleasanter than the house.

Sincerely yours,

C W Alvord

December 8, 1914

Professor Clarence W. Alvord

Urbana , Ill.

Dear Alvord:-

I think your plan for the publication of all the French explorations of the Mississippi Valley by means of a co-operative scheme is an excellent one, and I believe it could be carried through. I see no reason why every institution might not subscribe for copies to the number of the usual edition of its own publication and distribute them to its members. I doubt, however, whether you will get anything done by means of a dinner of thirty people, and I think that for securing positive results on this as well as other matters, it might be well to attempt to get together a smaller group. We ought to be able to arrange this, however, after we get to Chicago, say a breakfast or a late evening conference.

I appreciate very much your invitation for Christmas dinner, and shall certainly avail myself of it if my plans work out so as to bring me in Urbana at that time.

Sincerely yours

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
December 14, 1914.

Dear sir:

The first important cooperative work undertaken by the western historical institutions, namely, the calendaring of the documents in the archives of Paris, is almost completed; and the question has arisen in two institutions - The Illinois State Historical Library and the Michigan Historical Commission - as to the methods of publishing these documents. These two institutions, without consultation, made plans some time ago to publish series of volumes on the French explorations and work thereon has been done on both. A difficulty has arisen as to the division of the field between them; and after several friendly discussions it seemed best that they should call a meeting of the persons directly in charge of the publication work in the various states equally interested to discuss a still larger question, namely, the possibility of one general collection of the French documents.

It has been so difficult to find unappropriated time at the meeting of the American Historical Association for a full discussion, that it has been determined to call a meeting at dinner on December 30th at six o'clock in the Fort Dearborn Hotel. The dinner will be served in the private dining room known as the "Indian Room" and will cost \$1.50. If you desire to attend please inform me by return post. If you learn that any person who should be at such a meeting has not been notified, will you kindly let me know.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
St. Paul, Minnesota

December 16, 1914

Professor Clarence W. Alvord

416 Lincoln Hall,

Urbana, Ill.

My dear Alvord:-

I am sending you enclosed a copy of an outline of the paper which Professor Woodburn will read at the Conference of Historical Societies and which you have agreed to discuss.

Professor Woodburn states that he has been too busy to write the paper as yet, but that this outline will give an indication of what he intends to say. It is expected that the paper will take about fifteen minutes, and the discussion will be limited to eight minutes for each speaker.

Sincerely yours

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
December 29, 1914.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Buck:

While recently in Washington I had some talk with a sister of mine who is greatly interested in the Memorial Continental Hall of the D. A. R. situated in the Capitol City. In the course of conversation I learned that the librarian of the D. A. R. is very anxious to obtain complete sets of historical publications of the various western states and I took upon myself the duty of calling the attention of those in charge of such publications to this desire. The librarian advises me that she has none of your collections. If you could supply these it would be greatly appreciated and they would be placed in a library where it is worth while having them.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord