



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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SECRETARY
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RESEARCH FELLOW

INDIANA HISTORICAL SURVEY

UNDER DIRECTION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY

The Indiana Magazine of History is published
under the auspices of the Survey

LOGAN ESAREY
EDITOR
ERNEST V. SHOCKLEY
BUSINESS MANAGER
Subscription, One Dollar per Year

BLOOMINGTON, IND.

Feb 16 1914

Dear Dr. Buck -

Your letter to Dr. Woodburn concerning the Indiana Magazine of History was handed me for answer. We have copies of the numbers we have issued and I think I can secure almost a complete file for you if you desire them.

Very truly

Logan Esarey

Am sending last two numbers of Magazine

418 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois.

February 21, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Esarey:-

I am in receipt of your letter of February 16th, and also of the two copies of the Indiana Magazine of History, for which I am greatly obliged. Professor Woodburn's reply to my letter to him referred me to Dr. Demarchus Brown of the State Library for information about a file of the earlier numbers of the magazine. I wrote to Dr. Brown, and he replied that he could supply nearly if not all of the numbers after Volume II, at a cost of twenty five cents a number. In your letter you state that you think you can secure almost a complete file of the magazine for us. Will you kindly take up the matter and let me know just what numbers you can secure for the University Library, and at what price. As soon as we hear from you an order will be sent through for them, together with a continuation order so that the magazine will be received hereafter by the University Library.

If you will put my name on your mailing list so that I will receive personal copies of the magazine and all such other publications and circulars as you may issue, I shall be glad to do the same for you with reference to the publications of the Illinois Survey and also of the Illinois State Historical Library. My bibliography of Travel in Illinois will appear soon as volume IX of the Illinois Historical Collections, and I will see to it that you

Dr. Logan Esarey
- 2 -
February 21, 1914

receive a copy. We have on hand also a number of copies of Volume VIII, George Rogers Clark Papers, edited by Professor James. If you do not already have a copy of this volume, I will be glad to send you one. Under separate cover I am sending you a number of pamphlets, some of which may be of interest to you.

Permit me to call your attention to one rather serious error in your account of the plans for the celebration of the centennial of the admission of Illinois to the Union. You state that Dr. G. L. Smith, author of a school history of Illinois, is chairman of the Publication Committee of the Centennial Commission. The Chairman is Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, one of the Trustees of the State Historical Library and President of the State Historical Association. The school history to which you doubtless have reference was written by Professor George W. Smith of the State Normal School at Carbondale, Illinois, and is about as worthless a book as has ever been written in Illinois history.

I read with great interest your review of my Granger Movement, and wish to thank you for giving it so favorable a notice.

You have doubtless heard of the plans for the publication of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review under the auspices of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Professor Alvord is to be the Managing Editor of this Review, and the first number will appear some time in May. The Board of Editors has asked me to prepare an article on historical activities in Canada and the Old Northwest during the last year for the first number of The Review. In order to

Dr. Logan Esarey

- 3 -

February 21, 1914.

make this a satisfactory article, it will be necessary for me to secure information from the various societies and other agencies doing historical work in the field. I have your report to me as Secretary of the Conference of Historical Societies on the work of the Indiana Historical Survey, and also your two circulars dated June 24, 1912, and November 1, 1913. Any additional or later information which you can furnish me about work accomplished or under way, or even about plans for the future, will be gratefully received, and will be used in the preparation of my article. You will doubtless receive from Professor Alvord in the course of a few days a circular announcing the new Review.

Sincerely yours,

S. J. B./MS

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BLOOMINGTON, IND.

Feb 25 - 1914

Dear Dr. Buch -

Your good letter of the 21st at hand.
I have taken up the matter of back
numbers of the Magazine with the former
editor and will be able to report def-
initely later.

I am placing you on the list
of exchanges. Would be very glad to have
a copy of each of your publications.
As you can easily know via of memory
it is a hard pull here to get anything
started. I am hoping to organize a State
Survey with branches in every county. Our
trouble is a publication fund. I will
be glad to have every aid possible from
you who are in the same work. I hope to
get an organization so that if money is
forthcoming we can use it.

Thanking you for the good letter
I remain

yours

Logan Esarey

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCEJAMES A. WOODBURN, Professor of American History and Politics
SAMUEL B. HARDING, Professor of European History
AMOS S. HERSHEY, Professor of Political Science and International Law
ALBERT L. KOHLMEIER, Instructor in History

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA Apr 23-1914

Dear Dr. Buck-

Your letter came to hand in good time. I am writing the editor of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette concerning the Wells letter. I am interested myself to know if it is different from one I recently found here in Bloomington. As soon as I hear from Fort Wayne I will send copies of each if they prove to be different, or I may publish both in the June issue of the Ind Magazine.

You can find a copy of the recent History of Johnson Co Ind. by Branigan at the publisher B. F. Bowen & Co. Meridian Life Bldg. - Indianapolis. It came out in the last month of 1913. I will write you further later -

Very truly
Logan Esarey

418 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois

April 29, 1914

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Dr. Esarey:-

I am in receipt of your letter of April 23rd in which you state that you are writing to the editor of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette concerning the Wells letter, and that you have recently found a similar one in Bloomington. We will be very glad indeed to have copies of both of these if they are different. We are planning to publish in the September number of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review a collection of letters, mostly from the Indian Office in Washington, bearing on the Fort Dearborn massacre, which were unknown to Quaife, and we would like to include these letters. This will, of course, not interfere in any way with your publication of them in the Indiana Magazine, as you state that it is your plan to use them in the June issue if at all. If you do not succeed in running down the letter in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, we should like to have a copy of the letter which you have at least.

Thanking you for your assistance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

S. J. B./MS

418 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois.

April 20, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Esarey:-

I sent the file of the Indiana Magazine to our library a few days ago together with your bill, and you will doubtless receive a check for the same in the course of time. Before turning the file over to the Library I went through every number and was surprised at the amount of valuable material which I found. The improvement since the magazine was taken over by the University of Indiana is quite apparent, however. I wonder if you can give me any information as to where I might be able to find a copy of the Ft. Wayne Travel Gazette for August 12, 1906. In the Indiana Magazine of History, Volume 2, page 201, there is a reference to an article by Frank Dildine on William Wells, Indian captive, and a statement that this article contains a letter describing the Ft. Dearborn Massacre "written by one of Wells' companions and but recently made public."

Can you give me the date of Brammigan's History of Johnson County, Indiana, which was reviewed in one of the recent numbers of your magazine?

I trust you are still planning to visit Urbana on your way to or from the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting. Let me know your plans as soon as they are determined.

Cordially yours,

S. J. E./MS

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Get enclosures
with this

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

May 20 1914

Dear Dr. Bach.

I fear I have kept you waiting too long. I had the article in the Fort Wayne paper copied and find on receiving it that it is an exact copy of the original here in Bloomington. I am sending you a copy of the original.

I fear I shall not get to make the trip to N. Dak. A deal is developing in the North part of the State which I fear to leave in other hands. Hoping I am not too late I remain

Yours

Logan Esary,

Bloomington Indiana,

May, 8, 14.

Mr Logan Esarey,

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your request I will say I shall be glad to show you the original letter of which I sent you a copy. Walter K. Jordan was my great grand father and enlisted in Mercer county Pennsylvania. Mrs. Moreland was my grandmother and was the one for whom the line of kisses was sent. She lived in Brownstown in Jackson county Indiana, as her people migrated to that county from Pennsylvania about 1835 or 40. Walter K. Jordan never lived to see his family as he died in the service of his country, and is buried in Fort Wayne Indiana. I should be glad to give you any information that would be of interest to you in your historical work. Thanking you for your interest in this matter and hoping to see our letter printed in your magazine at some future time I am,

Respt. Yours,

Mrs. L. C. Mathers.

The following is an exact copy of a letter written by W. K. Jordan in 1812, and is replete with historic events of unusual interest. It was written to his wife, who was the mother of the late Mrs. Moreland:

October 12th, 1812

Betsy: I now lift my pen to inform you that I am in a good state of health, after a long and sore journey through the Indian country. I started from Ft. Wayne on the 1st of August with Cap. Wells, and 100 pretended Indian friends, to go to Fort Dearborn, on Lake Michigan, which is 200 miles from Fort Wayne. For guard in Cap. Hill and his company *of Fort Wayne* as he was in danger of being taken by the British, and had received orders ~~to~~^{to} evacuate that Fort and march to Fort Wayne. We got to Fort Dearborn on the 10th of August unmolested, destroyed all that we could not fetch with us and prepared for a March on the Morning of the 15th. The morning of the 15th now arrives, the most lamentable day I ever saw.. Hill's men consisted of 100 men, 10 women, and 20 children, total amounting to 130. Wells and myself and our 100 pretended Indian friends making in all 232.

Now we leave Fort Dearborn, about 3 o'clock in the morning, bound for Fort Wayne, and marched about one mile when we were attacked with 500 Kickapoos and Winebago Indians and our pretended friends joined them. Our engagement lasted

about 10 minutes, when there was every man, woman and child killed but 15, and, thanks be to God, I was one of them. The first shot took the feather out of my cap, the next shot the epulet off my shoulder, and the third broke the handle of my sword. I had to surrender myself to ~~four~~⁴ damned yellow Indians. They marched up to where Wells lay, and one of them spoke English and said, "Jordan, I know you, you gave me some tobacco at Fort Wayne. You shant be killed." "But see what I will do with your Captain." He then cut off his head and stuck it on a pole, while another took out his heart and divided it among the chiefs, and they ate it up raw. When they gulped all they gathered in around ring, with us poor devils in the middle, and had like to fall out who should have the prisoners. But my old chief, The White Raccoon, held me by the hand. They stripped all of us of our shirts and trousers, and every family took one as long as we lasted, and their started for their towns. Every man to his tent, O Isreal. But I will just inform you when I got to my strange lodging I looked like a cat in a strange garret. Bxt I made myself as comfortable as possible under my present circumstances. Night came on, they tied me hard and fast and placed a gaurd over me. I laid down and slept soundly till morning, for I was tired. They untied me in the morning and set me to parching corn. I worked all day very attentively. At night my old chief told

me that if I would stay and not run away that I would be chief, but if I attempted to run away they would catch me and burn me alive. I told him a fine story, so they did not tie me that night. As for the particulars I haven't time to write them, but I made my escape on the 19th, and stole one of their horses and came to Fort Wayne on the 26th, (being seven days in the wilderness) where I was recieved joyfully. On the 26th the Indians attacked Fort Wayne, so they cut off all intercourse. They thought to starve us out, but one friend Indian came in and we sent him to Governor Harrison, which came to our relief on the 16th of September with 3,000 volunteers. When the Gov. came on he broke our Captain for cowardice. I just mention this that if it should be my lot to fall that you may know how to come to my right. I belong to Captain Jas. Rha, in the 1st regiment of Infantry. Our paymaster was killed, or taken, at Detroit, so I have not recieved one cent of pay, and but half of my bounty, which was 8 dollars. I now am sargent, my pay is 7 dollars a month, I only served 15 days as a private.

What spare time I have I assist the comasary, so that keeps me tea, sugar, and so forth. After all my fun I weigh 190.

One word to you Betsey, for if I was now speaking to you it would be my own language. I have two letters of yours before me, and some of the soft hair of your head, and some in a small plait around my neck. I must say that I am

sorry to see your pen breathe ridicule, for if I deserve it, it wont cure it. Don't conclude from these words that I am tired of your letters, but tell me how you are, and how the children are, and for God's sake try to send Mountford to school. It ain't one time in ten that I can write to you, but you can write when you please. I gave 50 cents for this paper. Direct your letters to the care of Lieutenant Ostrander, for we have no cap. now. Tell me if the men is drafted in your country.

You will do W. K. Jordan a favor if you send Hunter a copy of this letter. So give my comps to all inquiring friends. Give my best respects to your father and mother and all your brothers, and this line of kisses to my hearts delight -----, and the boys tell them what you please, and these for yourself -----.

So I conclude with my best respects to you till death, or till I see you. So I subscribe my name this 12th night of October, 1812.

W. K. Jordan, Seargent.

418 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois

June 5, 1914

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Esarey:-

I am wondering if I have ever thanked you for the copy of the letter of W. K. Jordan which you sent me some time ago. I found this very interesting indeed. In view of the fact that Quaise doubts the authenticity of this letter in the garbled form in which it was printed in Miles' Register, I am wondering if you could not secure for us a photograph or photographs of the original. If the owner is willing, we will appreciate it very much if you will have such photographs made and send the bill to us.

I take it that you did not attend the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting at Grand Forks. No one went from here, and I am inclined to think the meeting was confined pretty largely to North Dakota people. I have seen no account of what was done there as yet. Should you find it possible to make us a visit some time this summer, I hope you will do so. I think we could show you many things of interest in connection with our work.

Sincerely yours,

S. J. B./MS

418 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Illinois,

July 24, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Esarey:

Some time ago I requested you to secure for me if possible a photograph of the Jordan letter, a copy of which you were kind enough to send me. I have not heard anything from you in reply, and I am wondering if my letter miscarried, or if you are merely awaiting a favorable opportunity to get the photograph.

I trust that you can arrange to get this for me, and shall certainly appreciate the favor very much if you will do so.

You have doubtless heard that I am leaving the University of Illinois to take charge of the work in American History at the University of Minnesota. That does not mean, however, that I am giving up all interest in Illinois history. I expect to continue my work on the Illinois in 1818 volume which I am preparing for the Centennial Commission. I shall probably have no part, however, in the final centennial history.

With best wishes I remain,

Cordially yours,

S.J.B.EWG

418 Lincoln Hall

Urbana, Illinois

August 17, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Esarey:

Not having received any replies to my two letters, I have almost reached the conclusion that the Indiana Survey has shut up shop temporarily. I am going to try once more, however, and this time to ask you to change my address on the mailing list of the Indiana Magazine of History to Library Building, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. I do not want to miss any number of the magazine as I will need it in preparing my report in the Conference of Historical Societies, also in preparing my next article for the Mississippi Valley Historical Review on "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest." I leave here in a couple of days for Madison and expect to reach Minneapolis about September first.

Sincerely yours,

118 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois
August 11, 1914

Dr. Roger Barry,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Barry:
Not having received any reply to my last
letter, I have almost reached the conclusion that the
Indiana Survey has not yet been started. I am
going to try one more, however, and this time to ask
you to change my address on the mailing list of the
Indiana Bureau of History & Library Building, and
write of it to the University of Minnesota. I do not want to
miss any number of the magazine as I will need it in
preparing my report on the Conference of Historians
held at the University of Minnesota last month for the
purpose of giving historical review on historical
activities in the Old Northwest. I have been
in a number of days for Madison and expect to reach
Minneapolis about August 15th.
Sincerely yours,
Alfred R. Meyer

Bloomington Ind

Aug 22 - 1914

Dear Dr. Bush -

I plead guilty to all you charge about neglecting to answer your letters. However I am going to reform. It would do no good to tell you how busy I have been. The photographer has promised the pictures of the Jordan mss. He took them over but the pieces of the Loim mss were not properly assembled. Will get it to you sometime. I note what you say about change of address, and will act accordingly.

I am glad to see you get a deserved promotion but am sorry to see you leave the Ill. Survey. Don't entirely forget us in your new work. I am living in the hope of getting our work here in a better way soon. We have no money at present for publication purposes.

Very truly

Logan Esarey

September 29, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
University, Bloomington, Ind.

Dear Dr. Esarey:

I received your letter of August 23 and was very glad to learn that there is a prospect of my getting the pictures of the Jordan manuscripts. I received also the September number of the Indiana Magazine of History and found it of considerable interest.

I had by no means given up my interest in Indiana and Illinois history and I expect to turn some of my graduate students into work along these lines. If I remain here permanently, I suppose I shall develop an interest in Minnesota history, but at present I know very little about it.

I note that Williams speaks, in his article on "Indiana history in the schools," of a book entitled Readings in Indiana History, published by the University. I should like very much to have a copy of this book and will appreciate it if you will have one sent to me, together with the bill therefore.

Cordially yours,

JAMES A. WOODBURN, PH. D.
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SAMUEL B. HARDING, PH. D.
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BLOOMINGTON, IND.

Oct 9 1914

Dear Dr. Buck -

After so long a time I am sending
you copies of the Jordan letter. The
original is here in the library at
present and shows every evidence
of being genuine. It is written on both
sides as you will notice. I am
hurrying to get this off. It cost me
\$2.00 but don't pay it if it comes out of
your own pocket. I ordered a Reading
in Ind. Hist.

Very truly

Logan Esarey

University of Minnesota,

October 13, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,

University of Indiana,

Dear Dr. Esarey:

I have to thank you for several things. First, for securing the photographs of the Jordan Letter for me. I enclose check for \$3.00 to cover the expense. I am paying this myself at present but expect to get it back in some way. The prints are easily worth the money. Secondly, I appreciate very much your kindness in having a complimentary copy of "Readings in Indiana History" sent to me. I have had time as yet to glance at it only, but it strikes me as being well conceived and well executed. My only criticism would be that there is not enough of it. In other words, I think the period since the civil war should be covered in a similar way, but I suppose there were very good reasons for not doing so.

Sincerely yours,

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BLOOMINGTON, IND.

Oct 15 1914

Dear Dr. Buck -

Yesterday I was out scouting and came upon more traces of the Jordan letters. I am putting one of our post boys on the trail to see what he can unearth. I am returning your check since you do not seem to have any fund out of which to pay it. I wish you would not use the Jordan letters for the present until we get the facts from this end. There seem to be several of them.

Very truly
Logan Esarey

October 20, 1914.

Dr. Logan Esarey,
University of Indiana,
Bloomington, Ind.

Dear Dr. Esarey:

Your letter of October 15 is at hand. The plot thickens and I shall certainly await further developments before making any use of the Jordan Letter. I am sorry that you would not accept the check for the prints, as I feel under great obligations to you for your efforts in this matter, to say nothing of the expense.

Sincerely yours,

April 19, 1915

Dr. Logan Esarey
University of Indiana,
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Dr. Esarey :-

Will you be so kind as to furnish me at your earliest convenience such information about historical activities in Indiana during the past year as I would not readily find in your magazine? I am preparing for the June number of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review an article similar to the one published last June, and desire especial information about the acquisition of materials, historical meetings, plans for future work, and monographs, etc., published or in course of preparation.

Sincerely yours

APR 30 1915

JAMES A. WOODBURN, PH. D.
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BLOOMINGTON, IND. Apr 28 1915

Dear Dr. Buet -

Your letter of the 19th came duly to hand. Dr. Woodburn will write you at length concerning the work we are doing. The Seminary is still growing. We are gradually getting materials and organizing it. I am in no hurry. We need a great deal of preparation here before any publishing is done. I have no ambition merely to break into print. If Dr. Woodburn doesn't write you in due time drop me a card and I will -

Very truly,

Logan Esarey

May 7, 1915

Dr. Logan Earey
Indiana University
Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Earey:-

I want to thank you for your letter of
April 28.

I received a letter from Harding and also some
information from Lindley which enabled me to give an
account of the situation in Indiana. I did not hear
from Woodburn, and there was not time to write to
you again.

I have been much interested in looking over your
History of Indiana which we purchased recently.

Sincerely yours

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BLOOMINGTON, IND. May 20 1915

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

Dear Dr. Buck:

Your recent letter received, Sorry we did not get the material to you in time for your review; although I am not surprised for when so many attempt to do the same thing it is rarely done by any one. However, we will do better next time.

A student here in our seminary is working on the Indiana Granger History and he has been unable to find some of the material you ^{list} ~~state~~ in your bibliography. On page 324 of your book you list eight newspapers of Indiana. We have been unable to find the files of these. Will you be so kind as to let us know where to find these. We will be under renewed obligations for this favor I assure you.

Wishing you uninterrupted success in your new position,
I am

Very truly yours,

Logan Esarey

May 24, 1915

Dr. Logan Esarey

Indiana University

Bloomington, Ind.

My dear Dr. Esarey:-

I am in receipt of your letter of May 20 inquiring about the Indiana newspapers listed in the bibliography of my Granger Movement.

This list of newspapers, as stated in the preliminary note on page 321, is not merely a list of papers used, but also of "the principal agricultural papers published during the period and all papers which are known to have had any special connection with the movement." Of ^{many} ~~most~~ of these papers I was unable to locate any files but derived my information about them from other papers or from newspaper directories. It happens that this was the case with ~~all~~ of the Indiana papers listed. When I had definite knowledge of the existence of a file of ~~any~~ newspaper I indicated that fact in the note.

I hope that your student will have better success than I did in locating files of Indiana agricultural or granger papers during the period.

Sincerely yours