



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Avon, Ill.

June 24, 1914.

Dear Dr. Buck:-

I am planning to return to Urbana the first of next week and will be ready for work by Tuesday or Wednesday. I am enjoying my vacation very much in spite of the hot weather. However, I am getting rather anxious to be busy again, as loafing is harder than I thought it would be.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne E. Stevens

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

AVON
JUN
24
18PM
1914
ILL



Dr. S. J. Buck,
University of Ill.,
Urbana,
Ill.

418 Lincoln Hall.

The Anna Hotel

Opposite I. C. Depot

R. L. WILLIS,

Proprietor

Anna, Illinois, August 12, 1914

Dear Mr. Buck:—

Well, I am down ~~into~~ Egypt at last. Tomorrow I will go over to Jonesboro and Friday morning I expect to go to Golconda. I am really making better time than I had anticipated. Train connections so far have been all I could ask for.

I had considerable difficulty in finding the returns at Vandalia and Pinckneyville and what I did find were very fragmentary, hardly worth the effort it took to get them I am afraid. However, I went through every thing very carefully and am sure I have all there are to be found.

I received the check for my expense account yesterday at Vandalia, but have heard nothing from the salary check which Miss Doherty was going to forward if it came in time. I will doubtless be in Golconda ^{until} Saturday morning and in McLeansboro Monday. You might perhaps tell Miss Doherty as Jonesboro was the last address I gave her. I am hoping

The Anna Hotel

Opposite I. C. Depot

R. L. WILLIS,

Proprietor

Anna, Illinois, 1914

to get back to Urbana by the 19th, and if you are not planning to leave before then, it might be as well for Miss Doherty to hold the check there in the office, providing it comes too late to be sent to McLeanboro. I am sorry to have you be inconvenienced in any way and if I receive it before I get back, I will mail it to you at once. I succeeded in getting my other check cashed without any trouble.

Hoping to see you again before you leave
I am

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Stevens.

()
Mc Leansboro, Illinois,

August 17, 1914.

Dear Mr. Buck:-

I arrived here at Mc Leansboro yesterday and found your letter at the post office. I had hoped very much to be able to get back to Urbana before you leave but am afraid it will be impossible. Yesterday I spent some time studying Tim's tables and find that train connections between here and Albion are abominable, the worst I have struck yet, in fact. It would be possible for me to get to Urbana before you leave ^{only} by being up the greater part of Monday and Tuesday nights. And even then I would be obliged to cut short my stay both here in Mc Leansboro and at Albion. There is apparently considerable material at Albion bearing on Illinois in 1818 which I want to look over, and judging from my experience in Pope County, that will take nearly a day. Then too I want to study the vote in the elections of 1822 and 1824 rather carefully in both places if I find the poll books. So far I have had almost no opportunity to study these elections as the poll books are very generally missing. I am trying to do things as thoroughly as possible this time and feel that it would not be advisable to hurry too much, particularly at Albion.

(over)

I spent a day and a half at Golconda. There is a very good collection of early records there. I had to run through it rather hastily but I think I have a few notes that will be of interest to you.

One reason why I was anxious to get back before you leave was that I might have an opportunity to talk over the work with you in a general way. There is one thing in particular that I want to ask you and that is whether you have come to any definite conclusions regarding the form of the tables, after seeing the printed sheets. Before I quit work I want to make up a few tables myself in as nearly final and complete shape as possible, so that in case it seems advisable to go on with the work this winter, I will be in a position to tell some one else exactly how to do it.

During the last week or so that I will have after I get back, I want to get my notes all arranged and spend a little time in finishing the political summary for 1818-1830, which I began before I left. This ought to be done, roughly at least, while the material I gathered from the newspapers and by means of the card files is still fresh in my mind. Of course this work cannot be completed until I have had access to the rest of the newspaper files covering the period. If I have any time left, I want to

work out the political affiliations of as many of the candidates as possible. This will be comparatively easy in the case of candidates for the more important offices but will be more difficult in the case of candidates for the legislature. Do you have any additional suggestions to make regarding the source from which information may be obtained? The political affiliations of candidates, as well as the specific issues involved in the different elections, should, it seems to me, be handled in foot notes, one for each table perhaps. To place such material in the introduction would be cumbersome. The introduction, it seems to me, should be a well-written resume of the political history of the state, and should not contain too much detail that might be supplied in notes.

One section of the introduction I believe ought to be taken up with a rather careful treatment of the legal side of the elections, including methods of voting, compiling returns, abstracts, etc. Something should also be said regarding the material from which the returns as they appear in the volume have been compiled.

You spoke at one time of making some maps showing the county boundaries of the state at various times. Have you any further suggestions to make along this line? I know but very little concerning the material which

4.

would be necessary in making such a series. The maps in the pamphlet you loaned me are, I believe you said, rather inaccurate.

You said you had decided not to include within the volume a biographical dictionary of the candidates. That seems to me to be much the better plan. But don't you think it might be a good plan to include, in foot-notes perhaps, a brief sketch of the leading candidates, say for governor, lieutenant-governor, and congress, about whom the principal issues center? These candidates are comparatively few in number and the biographical data concerning them need not be a distinct feature of the book, but at the same time might be a convenience to one using it. But this is only a suggestion.

I understand that you have taken full notes on the newspapers for 1814-1820. Before completing my political study I ought to have access to them, I suppose, but will leave that to your convenience of course.

There will doubtless be other questions arise which will have to be taken up with you by correspondence. Probably Professor Alvord can make suggestions along some lines. I find that I have been rather free with my suggestions in this letter but I will have to depend pretty largely upon myself from now on and perhaps may as well

begin now as at any time.

I know you are very busy at this particular time and possibly you won't have time to answer all of my questions now. What I am most anxious to know is just what plan you may have decided upon for continuing the work this winter and what you may have decided regarding the form of the tables after seeing the printed ones. As I said before, I want to draw up a few tables of each sort and get a definite plan laid out. I hope it will be possible in some way to print the tables in parallel columns; that is, some of them at least.

Many of my notes concerning Illinois in 1818 were taken rather hastily. While intelligible to me, they may possibly be less so to you, so I want to re-arrange them somewhat before sending them to you. I will do this as quickly as possible after I get back.

As it is nearly time for the county clerk's office to open I think I had better close. I wanted very much to see you before you left but ^{my} primary object just at present is to get through. Some of these places are so awfully hard to get to that I don't want to have to come back.

I only wish that you were going to be at the Uni-

6.
versity next year, for I have greatly enjoyed my work
with you. However, I wish ^{that} you may enjoy your new
work.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Stevens.

W.C.S.

October 30, 1914.

Mr. Wayne Stevens,

Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Stevens:

I am wondering how much you accomplished in the work on the Illinois Political Statistics last summer and what arrangements, if any, have been made for you to continue the work during the year. I have had several letters from Mr. Alvord but he has made no mention of this work. By the way, did you locate anything of interest to me in connection with my "1818" volume while on your trip through the southern part of the state? I trust that you had a pleasant vacation after your strenuous summer's work.

Cordially yours,

Urbana, Illinois,

November 1, 1914.

Dear Mr. Buck:-

I received your letter more than a week ago and intended to reply sooner. The notes which I gathered dealing with Illinois in 1818 I sent yesterday and you probably have received them by this time. I tried to go through the material as carefully as possible in the time that I had and hope that the notes may contain a little that will be of use to you. I know that it is often extremely difficult to use notes that have been taken by another and if there is any point which needs explanation, I hope you will let me know. In ~~the~~ working on the Pope County records, I endeavored to note every transaction relating to slavery or the indentured system, which appears for the three years 1816 to 1818, inclusive.

There has been nothing done on the election statistics since I have returned. Professor Alvord decided that he could not spare Miss Brown any time at all. Before I left he suggested the possibility of hiring some student to help in the work. When I came back he was very doubtful whether any money could be spared for the work. But after receiving your letter, I spoke to him again, and he said that it would be possible to do something if I could find the proper person to help with the work. I intend to look about and see if I can't find some one. So that is how the matter stands at present. Before leaving last summer I carefully arranged my notes and filed the pertinent returns which I secured, so that the results of my summer's work are all

in order. I made a summary of Illinois politics down to the year, 1830, which amounts to some sixty, or sixty-five manuscript pages, I should imagine. It will have to be worked over, of course, but the fact that I summarized my conclusions while the material was fresh in mind will prove a very great help, I believe.

With regard to the subject of my doctor's thesis I have given considerable thought. I am inclined to believe that on the whole, I should prefer to do my thesis work on the subject of the fur trade. It is rather a difficult matter to decide but it seems to me that the Northern fur trade offers an unusually attractive field. There is an opportunity to do a piece of work there that I rather hate to let slip. Professor Greene seemed ^{to be} rather inclined that I take the subject when I talked the matter over with him. On the other hand, I want very much to finish the work on political statistics which I have begun, and, if the mechanical side of it can be arranged for, see no reason why I should not be able to handle it. I have a distinct aversion to dropping a piece of work I have once begun, before it is finished, and hope I will be able to see the matter through.

We had some more of the tables printed and the results are much more encouraging than they were in the first instance. I have not made any careful study of them as yet, as I did not see them until I returned. However, I will go over them carefully and see what can be done. Probably you would like to see the proofs themselves, too. It seems to me that the tables can be arranged in such a way as not to necessitate any increase in the size of the

volume.

It seems to me that it would save time and money if we could study the methods used in compiling tables in the secretary of state's office. It may be that there are mechanical or other devices used in making statistical tables that might facilitate our work very much, and I have been wondering whether it would pay to investigate the matter.

I was asked to report on some phase of my summer's work at the American history conference last week. I chose the Shaw-Hansen election contest as the most available topic, and made a somewhat detailed report on the subject. Whether I succeeded in making clear to my audience the intricacies of the contest I don't know, but I am rather inclined to doubt it. I believe, however, that there is a good opportunity to make an interesting short study concerning the subject.

My vacation was somewhat of a disappointment as my father was unwell most of the time that I was at home and I have been rather anxious about things at home since returning this fall. I was a few days late in getting back as a result but am pretty well settled now.

I should like to hear from you and receive any suggestions which you have to make concerning the work. If nothing happens, I am hoping to see you at Chicago at the meeting of the American Historical Association.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne E. Stevens.

Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

November 24, 1914

Mr. Wayne E. Stevens

Urbana, Ill.

Dear Stevens:-

I received your letter of November 1st and appreciated very much the full report which it contained of your work.

You have doubtless learned of my recent appointment as Superintendent of our Historical Society. This will make it impossible for me to do any more work on the Illinois election statistics, but I feel sure that you are competent to complete the volume and hope that some satisfactory arrangement can be made for you to do so.

I shall continue my work on the Illinois in 1818 volume and I appreciate very much the full notes which you sent me on material in all of the Illinois County Archives. They will doubtless be of great assistance to me when I get that work under way again.

You have selected a very good subject for your thesis and one in which I am much interested because of its connection with Minnesota history.

I hope that it will be possible for me to keep in touch with your work on this subject and if I can be of any assistance to you, it will give me great pleasure. I am looking forward to seeing you again in Chicago, and talking over all of these matters with you.

Sincerely yours

FEB 9 1915

Urbana, Illinois,

February 7, 1915.

Dear Mr. Buck:-

I have been planning for some little time to write you regarding one or two matters, and now that examinations are over, I have a little leisure in which to do so. I have been thinking considerably of my plans for next year since I last talked with you. It is on the whole a strong temptation for me to remain here next year. While Professor Green was unable to say positively, he seemed reasonably certain when I talked with him the other day that they could offer me a good fellowship for next year. It is my impression, however, that competition will be much greater this year than it was last, and one can't afford to be too sure. At any rate, I am considering the advisability of at least putting in an application elsewhere. Of course I should like, if I make a change, to go to Harvard, but I really doubt whether there is any more material on my thesis subject available there than will be available here by next year; and of course that is something which should be taken into account. I had a letter from Mr. Melvin, in which he strongly urged me to apply at Pennsylvania, but I can really see no particular advantages which Pennsylvania has to offer one working in my own field.

Would it be asking too much for you to tell me what material there is at Minnesota on the fur trade? I suppose you know the general nature of the material available here; the Canadian Archives Reports, the photostatic reproductions of

the Indian Office letter books, and the material contained in the Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota historical society publications. I don't want to put you to any inconvenience, but thought that perhaps you could tell me whether there are any general collections of material at Minnesota, particularly collections which have never been reprinted. I suppose that there is more material on my subject available at Wisconsin than at any ^{other} one place. Can you also tell me in what form application for a fellowship at Minnesota should be made, and by when? In looking through a catalogue recently I could find nothing regarding applications. The catalogue I had was, however, not of the most recent date and perhaps I can find a later one which will give me the information I desire.

I have as yet made no definite plans for next summer. I should like very much to put in a couple of months at some such work as I did last summer. The work on political statistics should, I feel, be carried on in order that what has already been done may not be lost, but I do not know what Professor Alvord's intentions are with regard to it. A number of files of early Illinois newspapers have recently been received, but I have not as yet examined them carefully. I have the feeling that after what I did last summer, I should be in a position to make rather rapid progress during the coming summer. In fact, it would be too bad if the matter should be allowed to drop, as ultimately, all that was done last summer would probably have to be done over again. But I suppose that all depends upon the library board. If you feel as I do with regard to the matter, perhaps a suggestion on your part might help at some time or another. It is by

no means entirely a matter of self-interest. I can doubtless find some other way in which to employ my vacation, but I really feel that it would be wasteful to let the matter drop completely for the present. At any rate, I shall put the situation before Professor Alvord as I see it.

There is nothing certain as yet regarding a trip to Canada this summer, though I am hoping that it can be arranged. Professor Greene spoke rather encouragingly of the possibility of such a trip. It would be a splendid opportunity for me in many ways and I feel that I could accomplish a great deal.

Well, another semester's work is about to begin. I will have but few hours of routine work to do this semester, which will give me time for my thesis and an opportunity to prepare for the trial and tribulation which are scheduled for May. I really am ashamed to say that I have done but very little thus far on my thesis; but I feel that I have a fairly good excuse in that I have had a great deal of work in the form of courses during the past semester.

I find that I have already written at greater length than I had intended, so I will close.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne E. Stevens

709 W. High St.,
Urbana.

February 16, 1915

Mr. Wayne E. Stevens

709 West High St.,

Urbana, Ill.

Dear Mr. Stevens:-

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of February 7, and learn of your work and plans for the future. I think that there is little doubt but what you would be given a fellowship at Illinois next year, but as I have told you before, I do not think it advisable for a man to take all three years of his graduate work at the same institution.

On the whole, I should recommend Harvard. You would find there all the printed material for your thesis and probably some manuscript material, and most important of all, you would come in contact with Professor Turner and the other Harvard men. If that should not be feasible, it would, I believe, be to your advantage to go to either Wisconsin or Minnesota. As you say, Wisconsin probably has the most manuscript material for your subject, although the photostat copies of the Indian Office material in Illinois are fully as important as anything you would find at Wisconsin. At Minnesota, you would find available all of the printed material, and a considerable quantity of manuscript material, especially for the later period. For example, we have the papers of H.H. Sibley, the most important fur trader in this region, from 1830 down. I hope to secure as rapidly as possible photostat copies of the material in the Indian Office relating to

W.E.S. 2/16/15 -2

this part of the country.

Before your thesis is finished, you will undoubtedly have to use material in various places, for you cannot find everything which you need in any one place. Personally I should be very glad to have you come to Minnesota, and would do everything in my power to assist you. I have asked Dean Ford to send you application blanks and circulars.

I think it will be very unfortunate if Professor Alvord does not find some way to continue the work on election statistics and I am going to write him to this effect. He has so many things on hand that he may not feel like pushing this at present. If he should decide to carry it on, however, I am sure that he will want your services. In case you do not continue this work next summer, let me know if you would consider doing something for us in Minnesota. I might be able to arrange something and you would find this a pleasant place to spend the summer.

If you do make the trip to Canada of which you write, it might be worth your while to come here on the way and look us over. If you can do so, I should be very glad to have you stay with me.

Cordially yours

Urbana, Illinois,

March 21, 1915.

Dear Mr. Buck:-

I was very much pleased to receive your letter in answer to the one which I wrote, and appreciated very much your suggestions in reply to my questions. It has been a rather difficult problem for me to decide definitely with regard to plans for next year and even now I am not sure that I have acted wisely. In all probability I shall remain at Illinois next year. Harvard seems for the time being out of the question and after thinking the matter over I decided that I could probably work on my thesis here as advantageously as elsewhere, though I have been and am fully aware of the desirability of a change in environment. However, I am not planning to spend all of my time next year at Illinois. As you suggest, it will be necessary for me to visit a number of places in search of material and Professor Greene advises that I obtain leave of absence for that purpose. It may be that I will find it possible to visit Harvard for a short time. I should like very much to come into contact with Professor Turner, even though for but a short time. I have unlimited faith in the possibilities of my thesis subject. In fact, I scarcely believe that I could have chosen a field which would have appealed to me more.

Professor Alvord called me in for a talk with him a few days after the arrival of your letter. He fully agrees with you that it is desirable

that the work on the Political Statistics be continued this summer. It is his intention to use some of the money of the appropriation for the Centennial History for the purpose, so I will in all probability go on with the work this summer. I was very much pleased to know that in case it should be found impossible to continue the work here this summer, there was a possibility that you might arrange something at St. Paul. I visited St. Paul a few years ago and am sure it would be a very pleasant place in which to spend the summer. So far as I am personally concerned, such a proposition appeals to me more than another summer here. But of course I feel obliged to complete the work I began last summer if possible. While the matter is not absolutely settled, I am assuming that I will continue with the work on Political Statistics, unless I should hear something to the contrary from Professor Alvord. He has promised to let me know at once if anything should arise to prevent the work. I appreciate very much indeed the interest which you have taken in the matter and I shall in all probability want to ask you for suggestions in the future.

It is rather doubtful whether I visit Canada this summer, though I shall probably go to Detroit and possibly to Mackinaw. If it is ever convenient, I shall certainly take advantage of your kind invitation to visit Minnesota.

Very sincerely yours,

Wayne P. Stevens.

JUL 7 1915

Urbana, Illinois,

July 5, 1915.

Dear Mr. Buck:

I intended to write to you some little time ago but haven't managed to get to it until to-day. Work on the political statistics is occupying nearly all of my time and attention at present. I have a man by the name of McKenna, whom you perhaps knew last year, helping me and we are making fairly satisfactory progress, though it is slow work at best. I though perhaps you might be interested to know what we are doing and then there are a few matters concerning which I should like to ask you.

We have started ^{put} coming the tables at the beginning and have made use of the precinct returns for the elections up to 1830, so far as they are available. We are following pretty closely the form and arrangement which we worked out last summer, and which I believe will prove on the whole to be very satisfactory. It has seemed best, however to make a few minor changes. With regard to the small tables for candidates for the general assembly, we have decided that it would be almost hopeless to try and arrange them in such a way that the printer would be able to follow our grouping. In the case of a great many of them it will be impossible to tell exactly beforehand whether they can be arranged in a single column or whether they will have to be expanded to the width of the page. I talked the matter over with Professor Alvord and Miss Dogherty and they seemed to agree that it would be best to draw up the tables according to one scale, then to tell the printer to expand them or compress them, as he may find it necessary. This seems to be the most practicable method as a single mistake in estimating the size of the printed tables would destroy the whole arrangement. However, we can give the printers very definite instructions as to the general plan which we want them to follow in arranging them.

I have had in mind asking you with regard to the source from which you originally compiled the returns which we are using. As I remember it, you said you copied the returns from a compilation of some sort in the secretary of state's office and checked them up with the original abstracts as sent in from the various counties and ~~districts~~. Is there any definite term which may be used in referring to this compilation? I note that all the returns are accompanied by page references. Will it be desirable, do you think, to cite these references in connection with the tables which we are compiling? I suppose it would be well to indicate whether the returns have been gathered from the secretary of state's archives or from county archives.

Do you think it will be necessary for us to check up in any way the additions and per centages which have already been worked out? Were they done with the adding machine and slide rule or by the long method? We have been using the adding machine and slide rule for most of

our work. The work already done appears to be accurate, though I have made no systematic attempt to check it up.

I note that after 1848, the returns include votes for various minor offices, such as state auditor, state treasurer, circuit judge, and state's attorney. I have been rather wondering whether these should be included. I rather imagine they should be if it is intended to make the work as complete as possible. Of course all votes on political questions should be included.

How far should you advise that the work be carried? I have been rather looking forward to 1870 as the goal to be ultimately attained, though of course that depends somewhat upon when the published returns begin to be available.

I have had a little difficulty in arranging the returns for presidential electors. I suppose that unless otherwise indicated in the notes, the figures in the tables which you made show the vote received by each candidate for elector on a given ticket. It seems best to me to choose the highest elector in each case when making out the tables. That seems to be the plan which you followed in a good many cases.

The matter of captions is a little difficult to decide upon, as well as the designation of districts, particularly of legislative districts. The legislative districts were not legally numbered until after 1848 apparently. I believe that it will be well to arrange the districts in the order in which they are given in the statutes and then number them arbitrarily, for the sake of convenience.

I have not decided as yet whether to arrange the tables in the volume chronologically, or whether to group all the returns of a given sort, as for congress, governor, etc., together. I rather favor the former method, although that is a matter which can be arranged a little later.

It is my plan before I finish to write a rather complete summary ~~of~~ of election laws and procedure, as well as state political machinery which may have any bearing upon elections. I want to determine the political affiliations of as many candidates as possible and also indicate the counties in which the more important candidates reside. I believe that this last sort of information will be of considerable value to anyone using the tables. The matter of a summary of the political history of Illinois, to accompany the volume, I am rather leaving for the present. The extent to which that side of the work can be gone into will depend pretty largely, I suppose, upon the amount of time available.

I hope that I am not over-burdening you with my requests for information. I am hoping to see you here at the University some time this summer, when I can have an opportunity to talk things over somewhat. Professor Alvord told me you were uncertain whether you would be here or not. I have talked some with with Dr. C. M. Thompson, and find that

he has a number of helpful suggestions with regard to some things. Have you seen his thesis, which has just been published? He was in the office a short time ago and asked me to send you his regards when I wrote.

I am trying to get a little work done on my thesis this summer. The more I work upon it the more pleasèd I am with the subject. It certainly has possibilities for development into a good piece of work. A new volume of the Illinois Historical Collections has just appeared, the first volume of the British Series. I suppose you have a copy by this time. It seems to me to be one of the most attractive of these which have appeared. I am planning to spend most of my time during the coming year on my thesis. My preliminaries are safely by, as well as my language examinations. It is indeed a big relief to have them behind me.

If you have any additional suggestions with regard to matters other than those I have mentioned, I should be very glad to receive them. A great many questions have arisen with regard to the work which I did not foresee last summer, but I believe I will be able to work them out in pretty good shape. As I have already written at greater length than I intended when I began, I will close.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne E. Stevens

July 8, 1915.

Mr. Wayne E. Stevens,
416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Stevens:

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter of July 5th, and to learn of your work on the volume of political statistics. I am, as you know, very much interested in that volume, and hope to see it completed and published in the near future. You are doubtless wise in giving up the attempt to arrange the sample tables for the printer. If the work is done by an intelligent printer, he will probably be able to arrange them satisfactorily. The returns you are using were copied originally from the record of election returns in several bound volumes in the office of the Secretary of State at Springfield. You can find the title of these volumes more exactly in Alverd and Pease's report on the Illinois archives. I have not a copy at hand or I would give it to you.

These volumes were compiled from the original returns in the first floor vault of the Secretary of State's office and our transcripts were collated and corrected by these original returns. I do not think it necessary to give page references to the volumes from which the returns were originally copied. No one would have occasion to refer

p.#2, Mr. Stevens-

back to these volumes as your work will be much more accurate than are they. The only way to really check it up, would be to consult the original returns themselves which are arranged in order in the vault. The page numbers were put on our copies merely for the sake of convenience. I do think however, that it would be very desirable to indicate the source of all statistics derived from other places, than this collection of election returns in the Secretary of State's archives.

With reference to the additions and percentages already worked out, I cannot say positively that they have been fully checked up. Perhaps I could tell if I could see the sheets themselves. All of the percentages were worked out with the slide rule, and an adding machine was used to some extent I think. As you have doubtless discovered, the percentages in most cases serve to check each other, so that no particular verification is needed.

I think it quite important that the returns for State Auditor, Treasurer, Circuit Judge, and States Attorneys etc., after 1848, should be included in the volume. The great value of the work will be it's comprehensiveness, and to leave these out would be, I believe, a serious mistake. As I remember it, the pamphlets containing printed election returns were first published some time during the 70's. The Constitutional Convention of 1870 would seem to make a good stopping place for the volume. It might however, be desirable to find out just what statistics for more recent years

p. #3, Mr. Stevens-

have been published, and make the volume connect up with them. A bibliography of such publications would doubtless be appreciated by those who will use the volume.

With reference to the returns for Presidential electors, you will find, I think, some exception to the figures ~~submitted~~ in connection with some of the tables. I gave the matter a good deal of thought and finally decided that to choose the highest electors in each case did not always present accurately the attitude of the electorate. Thus it would frequently happen that a candidate for elector would run ahead of his ticket in the district in which he lived. In such cases the vote for the other electors would represent the normal vote in that district on the Presidential election. My policy therefore, was to examine the returns carefully in every case where there was a discrepancy for the votes of different electors and to take the vote which seemed to represent the attitude of the electorate on the Presidency.

Should you take the highest elector in each county, you might have a total of more votes than were actually cast in the election. Should you take the highest elector of each party for the State as a whole, you might still have a total of more votes than were actually cast. My recollection is that I intended for the first two or three Presidential elections to print the returns in full for each elector and after that to give the normal vote in each county, explaining in foot notes any variation from that vote in the case of a particular candidate. I think you will

p.# 4, Mr. Stevens-

find such notes accompanying the tables in most cases.

With reference to the numbering of the Auditors, when no numbers have been assigned to them by law, it had been my intention to assign them numbers or letters arbitrarily. In case numbers are used, it might be well to italicise them or put them in brackets, or in some other way call attention to the fact that they are not official designations.

With reference to the arrangement of the tables in the volume I am strongly in favor of the chronological order. The student is almost always interested in all the elections of a particular period rather than in simply the election of a particular office. The summary of election procedure and State political machinery which you propose to write for the volume, will undoubtedly be of great value. I consider the department of political affiliations very important also. I quite agree with you that the summary of the political history of Illinois is not so essential in connection with this volume.

I am very glad indeed to hear that you are pleased with your thesis subject. I believe it is an excellent one and that you have an opportunity to do a fine piece of work. I am in hopes that before you complete it, you will find it necessary to consult the Sibley papers and other material in our library.

I have not yet received the new volume of the Illinois Historical Collections, but suppose it will come in in the

p.#5, Mr. Stevens-

course of time. I have just discovered from our mailing list that I failed to send you a copy of the first number of the Minnesota History Bulletin. The second number together with our Eighteenth Biennial Report will be ready for distribution in a few weeks and a copy of the first number which contains Prof. Oliver's paper, will be sent with them to you.

In case I can be of any assistance in any way, either in connection with the volume on political statistics or with your thesis, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

JUL 15 1915

Urbana, Illinois,
July 13, 1915.

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

Dear Mr. Buck:

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you again so soon but there are one or two matters concerning which I should like to have your opinion. Since I received your letter I have been trying to discover some convenient and simple method of handling the returns for presidential electors. I appreciate the objection to selecting the highest elector in each case. In fact, it seems to me that it will be impossible in case of variation to select such votes in each case as, when added together, will give a total which will correctly represent the proportion of the vote received by each ticket throughout the state at large. So I thought of omitting the totals for the state in the large table and summarizing the totals in a smaller, supplementary table, like that which I am enclosing. Now it seems to me that the purpose of the larger table is to do two things; first, to indicate where possible the number of voters who supported the various tickets in the different counties; and second, to indicate the relative strength of the tickets in the different counties. Where the vote is unevenly distributed among the electors on a given ticket, it seems that it will be impossible to indicate the first save by means of a footnote. To indicate the relative strength of the different tickets, it seems to me that the combined vote received by the various candidates should be taken into

account, rather than any single vote which might be selected from the various tickets. In cases of irregularity, I thought of entering in the large table the combined votes of the various candidates on the different tickets, putting the figures in italics to call attention to the different practice followed in these instances, and then calculating the percentages on that basis. I am enclosing a couple of sheets to illustrate what I mean and I believe they are self-explanatory. Do you think such a system too cumbersome for the present purpose? I should not care to trouble you with the matter, only I feel that the tables for president will be among the most important in the volume and as you have already given the question considerable attention, I thought you might be able to criticise the plan which I have outlined. I have considered various plans and I cannot seem to hit upon any which is not open to considerable objection upon one ground or another.

There is one other matter which I should have mentioned in my other letter. I believe that it will be wise to include the returns for the minor state offices after 1848. I have been wondering whether it will be worth while to calculate percentages for them all. I notice that in the tables which you had compiled there is space left for the percentages and I was wondering whether the original plan was to include them in the case of the minor offices. We decided before you left I believe not to include the percentages in the case of elections to the General Assembly. I feel sometimes that they might in some cases be valuable but in view of the time it would take to calculate them and the large amount of additional space which

they would require, I imagine it will be as well to omit them. We are of course including the percentages in the tables for congress, governor, lieutenant governor, and all political questions which were submitted to popular vote at various times. Perhaps they might also be included in the tables for secretary of state and state treasurer but I am doubtful whether it will pay to calculate them in the cases of other minor offices. I should like, however, to follow out the original plan if you had any definitely formulated.

I was very much pleased to receive your letter a few days ago, and to get your views on the matters concerning which I asked. I only hope I am not imposing on you too much again in the present instance.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne Stevens

VOTE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1832

¹ The five Jackson electors received 26 votes each; of the Clay electors, Menard and Moore received 7 votes each while the other three received 6 each.

² Each of the Jackson electors received 228 votes; of the Clay electors, Archer received 147 votes, while the other four received 148 each.

SUMMARY OF VOTE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1832

<i>candidate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<u>Total</u>	106,791	
<u>For Jackson</u>	<u>73,072</u>	68+
Alexander	14,610	
Dunlap	14,617	
Evans	14,615	
Flack	14,615	
Stookey	14,615	
<u>For Clay</u>	<u>33,719</u>	32-
Archer	6,740	
Iles	6,745	
Menard	6,744	
Moore	6,745	
White	6,745	

VOTE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1832

COUNTY	TOTAL	<i>Andrew Jackson</i>		<i>Henry Clay</i>		<i>Anti-Masonic</i>	
		Vote	Per cent	Vote	Per cent	Vote	Per cent
Adams	406	259	64-	147	36+		
Alexander ¹	<u>162</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>80+</u>	<u>32</u>	20-		
Bond	213	202	74-	68	25-	3	1+
Calhoun	39	31	79+	8	21-		
Clark ²	<u>1,879</u>	<u>1,140</u>	61-	<u>739</u>	39+		
Clay	118	115	97+	3	3-		
Clinton	342	270	79-	72	21+		
Coles	385	293	76+	92	24-		
Cook	156	76	49-	80	51+		
Crawford	406	309	92	97	8+		
Edgar	708	516	73-	192	27+		
Edwards	314	188	60-	126	40+		
Fayette	553	468	85-	85	15+		
Franklin	462	460	100-	2	0+		
Fulton	347	223	64+	124	36-		

July 20, 1915

Mr. Wayne E. Stevens,
416 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Stevens:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 13, and am glad to assist in any way I can in the preparation of your tables. I have given considerable thought to your proposed solution of the problem of the vote for presidential electors, and it does not seem to me to be satisfactory.

The inclusion in the same table of figures which represent the vote for each elector in some counties and figures which represent the total vote for all electors in other counties would seem to me to throw the whole table out of balance.

I still think that the best solution of the problem is to consider each individual case on its merits and to put down so far as possible what seems to indicate the intention of the voters with reference to the presidency. Thus, should we have in a certain county a vote of 89 for each elector on the whig ticket, and of 97 for two electors on the democratic ticket, and 98 for the third, I should indicate the vote for this county as 89 whig and 98 democrat, because it is obvious that one democrat voted for only one elector, probably with the idea that that was suf-

ficient to cast a ballot for the candidate for the presidency. On the other hand, if in this case one of the whig electors had been short a vote, I should put down the vote for the county as whig 89 and democrat 97, as it would be obvious that one whig cast one of his ballots for a democratic candidate and the other two for whig candidates, probably because of personal aversion to one of the candidates. There will be cases, of course, where it is impossible to feel sure of the situation, but a reasonable guess can be made which will be more accurate than any formal system of taking in each case the highest or the lowest vote. Moreover, the exact vote for each elector, where there are variations, can be indicated in footnotes.

Should this scheme prove unworkable, there would appear to be two other possible solutions. The total vote for all candidates for elector of a party might be used in every instance. This would preserve the balance between counties. A better plan than this, however, would be to take the average vote in each case, adjusted to the nearest whole number.

I think it quite important that the possibility of comparison of the vote in different counties should be preserved. I think, also, that the total vote for all parties in each county should be given in the tables. It is necessary to ascertain this total vote in order to work out the percentages, and the figures are important, first for

showing how great the interest was in the particular election, and secondly for the light which they throw on the increase of population in each county year by year.

I doubt the desirability, also, of having a separate table for a summary of the voting for presidential electors. Using any one of the three plans which I have suggested, it would be possible to put the total party vote at the top of the regular columns. It would undoubtedly be well, however, to indicate in a footnote any variation from this total in the totals of the votes cast for individual candidates for elector. This will be, of course, exactly the same treatment as I have recommended for the individual counties where there are variations.

3 The greater number of variations will undoubtedly occur in the earlier elections, and as I have suggested before, it would probably be well to give the vote by individual elector in the tables, for the earliest elections.

I am glad that you agree with me that it will be desirable to include the minor state officers, and I think you are right in feeling that it would not be worth while to work out percentages for them. As you suggest, the secretary of state and state treasurer are more important than the others, and there might be more reason, therefore, for including percentages of the votes for them. Here again I should think the decision might well be made for each individual case, instead of following a general rule, and based on a consideration of the votes in the particular election. Thus, if the vote for secretary of state should

Mr. Wayne Stevens. - Page 4

show extensive variations from the vote for governor and lieutenant governor in the same election, it might be well to indicate percentages. In some cases, I think, the percentages of the vote for lieutenant governor might also be omitted, especially when it appears to be a straightforward party contest, with the votes running about the same as the votes for governor.

I realize that one who is working with the tables finds difficulties which do not occur to one at a distance; but I hope that you will adopt some scheme which avoids the use of figures meaning entirely different things in the same tabulation.

Very sincerely yours,