



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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FEB 7 1916

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 5, 1916.

Mr. S. J. Buck,
Secretary Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Solon:

I have been very busy since I got back from Washington trying to catch up with the work which I missed while I was away. There were twenty-four shelves in all of the material which I have been working on. Of this number I have completed to date about sixteen, so you see I am getting along with it. I think the evidence that I have been getting in the last three weeks is perhaps the best that I have had access to yet. I found a number of letters of Robt. McCormick written to Cyrus while he was in Kentucky in the fall of 1831 and the early part of 1832, attempting to sell a hemp-breaking apparatus. There are also some letters of Cyrus dating from 1833 to 1852, a number of which deal exclusively with the subject of the reaper. The letters of Robert and Cyrus are interesting not only for the information which they contain about the invention, but also for the side lights they throw on both men, and for the relations of Cyrus to his family. I found one interesting bit about Leander. Cyrus in writing to William from Cincinnati in the 40's was evidently attempting to get Leander interested in the business. He told William to have Leander write to some prospective

customers, and see that Leander used the dictionary liberally. He said that he better get a dictionary and carry it with him, and learn to use the words he did not know the meaning of. Evidently Leander's education was not all that it might have been.

I am going down to Urbana over Sunday, and will look up Alvord and Pease.

I am enclosing you a check for \$15., and am much obliged. I needed it all right before my check came. Dorothy had an awfully good time from her own account, and got a rest which I think she needed. I got your Minnesota History Bulletin this evening and have been looking over Blegen's article. I find it very interesting. Will you send me the bulletins previous to the last issue which contains extractions from the Murray papers. I should like to see them. I called up Dodd the other day, and I am going out to have a talk with him soon.

Mrs. Blaine was much interested in an informal report I gave her of my activities in Washington, and said she thought the other members of the historical association would be interested in also hearing about it. She asked me accordingly to write out a somewhat formal report, which I did.

I do not know whether I told you when I was in Washington that I got track of several collections of papers in Virginia that ought to be of interest in the work which I am doing. James MacDowell, who was Governor of Virginia in 1843 was a close friend of the McCormick family. A considerable portion of his papers still exist. There are also some 28 letter-books of Edmund Ruffin, which I should like to get at also. He was one of the pioneer agricultural editors, and has one of the earliest notices of the reaper in his paper. Dodd told me about still another collection of papers which may have material. Madame McCormick, in talking with me the other day, spoke of a fourth collection - the letters of a certain Billie Massie. This Massie, I find frequent reference to in the letters of Robert. He also was a close friend of the family. I thin when the time comes to begin to collect new material, that I may be able to add from this and other collections valuable evidence. At present, however, I want to finish the bibliography of material in the McCormick Library and abstract all the evidence on the invention of the reaper, before I start on anything new.

How is Mrs. Krey getting along? Mrs. Buck must have had a strenuous time with her cousin and the measles. How is the machine? Is it working all right? Give my regards to Augie when you see him. Remember me to your mother and father.

AEB

Yours sincerely,

Herbert.

February 9, 1916

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 East 44th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Herbert:-

This is not a reply to your interesting letter of February 5, but simply an acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter and check. Some day when I have time, I will write you a real letter.

Sincerely yours

APR 18 1916

Hellar

April 16, 1916.

Dear Solon:

I am enclosing you a somewhat deep and learned comment upon the life of the Duke of Albemarle which I hope you will appreciate.

Did you ever hunt a burglar. I had that thrilling experience last evening - about ten o'clock our bell rang persistently and as no one came through the downstairs door when I pressed the button to unlatch it, I went to investigate. I found a lady in the hall who was evidently much perturbed. On enquiring the cause, the said lady informed me that to the best of her belief she was entertaining a burglar in her flat. I suggested that it might be proper to investigate such a belief and she thereupon led the way to her flat - above ours.- and we began the search. I became a trifle embarrassed as the hunt proceeded for the lady was thorough and I, a stranger, had some qualms in thus plunging among the lady's wardrobe not to speak of the possible burglar should he develop. At last we arrived in the kitchen and found out that ^{the} burglar was merely hungry. A missing sirloin steak and bottle of milk told the story. As we made the discovery a key rattled in the lock and the lady's husband entered. Now this man, I soon perceived, was economical in disposition, for before any explanations could ensue he demanded in an angry tone "Why in thunder all the lights were on " etc. About that time he saw me and I'll bet a lead quarter you can't guess what he did next. He immediately

retired to the bath room - and locked the door. To blow out his brains you say, because he found a strange man conversing with his wife in his flat at ten o'clock at night. Oh no - merely to relieve his feelings. He must have been in a bad way. At least I judge so for he stayed ten minutes. You can perhaps imagine my feelings. If I had thought myself embarrassed before it was as nothing to what I felt then. I didn't want to go before he came out and that was a long ten minutes. At length he appeared and I gracefully withdrew. At least I hope it was gracefully, privately I have my doubts. Now its perfectly proper to go into a bathroom - but to go into a bathroom on an occasion like that. I hate to say what my opinion of that man is.

I have been much taken with your suggestion about going to Nashville but don't know yet whether I can go or not. I will let you know in a day or two. But in any case you certainly want to go through Chicago and if possible stay over night with us.

I am glad that the Krey's baby girl is coming out all right and that Mrs. Krey is doing well.

Give our best regards to your father and mother,

Yours sincerely,

Herbert.

April 19, 1916

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

I have your letter of April 16, but the enclosure with reference to the Duke of Albemarle which you mention in the first sentence was not to be found.

I am planning to leave here Monday night and get to Chicago in time to take the forenoon train for Urbana. Wednesday evening I expect to go to Danville and catch the C. and E. I. through train for Nashville, reaching there Thursday morning. I presume Quaife's party from Chicago, if organized, will go down on the same train.

I had expected to return to Chicago Saturday night, spend Sunday in Chicago and come back to Minneapolis Sunday night. It appears, however, from the program which I have just received that there will be no session on Saturday, but merely an excursion to the Hermitage about which I am not wildly enthusiastic. I may start back Friday night, in which case I would probably spend Saturday in Chicago, or I may start Saturday morning if there is a through day train, and not stop in Chicago at all. I have got a very heavy

H.A. F. 4/19/16--2

program ahead of me for the next three or four months and must save time wherever possible.

Alvord was here Monday and Tuesday of last week and we made plans for finishing up my volume for the Illinois Centennial Commission. I will probably spend most of the month of June in Urbana working on this volume.

I am very much in hopes that you will arrange to go to Nashville. If I have time I will call you up between trains in Chicago.

Yesterday I received a letter from Beverley Bond inviting me to visit him at LaFayette on the way down, but alas, I was unable to accept.

Your tale of the burglar hunt is quite spectacular, but I think it needs some further elucidation.

Sincerely yours

| CLASS OF SERVICE | SYMBOL |
|------------------|--------|
| Day Message | |
| Day Letter | Blue |
| Night Message | Nite |
| Night Letter | N L |

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED AT 332 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

B91CH 10

CHICAGO ILLS 1107A 24

SOLO N J BUCK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW CAPITAL BLDG ST PAUL MINN

AM GOING TO NASHVILLE AND WILL MEET YOU AT DANVILLE

HERBERT A KELLAR.

TELEPHONE NO. 3020

TELEPHONE (11)

TIME 11:20 am

BY LO

TO BE Delivered

2039 APR 24 11 21

May 25, 1916

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 East 44th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

Yesterday I found in my office at the University the proof of your report on the archives of Minnesota. It was addressed to you, but knowing that you would not care to be bothered with it I took possession of it, looked it over and am returning it to Leland. It is going to be quite a formidable document.

Leland has inserted after your name on the title page "of the University of Minnesota." I struck this out, but did not know what you would want to put in its place. If you do want to put anything here, drop a line to Leland to that effect at once. His address is 1140 Woodward Building.

Mother tells me that you and Dorothy are planning to make us a visit in August. That will be very fine as I expect to have my work in such shape then that I can take things easy.

I leave next week, Sunday if possible, in the car for Urbana, but do not expect to go through Chicago on the way down at least.

H. A. K. 5/25/16--2

You will be interested to know that I discovered in the vaults the other day three more boxes of Murray papers, containing a lot of valuable material. Murray's daughter, Mrs. Milne, has also given us some additional letters and a letter-press book.

My address at Urbana will be 416 Lincoln Hall.

Cordially yours

September 21, 1916

Mr. Herbert A. Kallar
430 E. 44th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

I expect to be in Chicago Saturday to attend a conference of historical societies at the La Salle Hotel in the afternoon, and would like, of course, to have an opportunity to see you.

I am not sure yet what train I will take, but will probably not reach the city until late in the forenoon. If you can conveniently, you might meet me in the lobby of the La Salle Hotel at twelve o'clock and we can have lunch together. If it isn't convenient, never mind about it and I will try to reach you by telephone.

Sincerely yours

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| Night Message | Nite |
| Night Letter | N L |

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



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GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED AT PIONEER BLDG., 332 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN. ALWAYS OPEN

4
3 CH 12:

FY CHICAGO ILL 1204 P 122

SEP 22 PM 2:35

MR. SOLON BUCK

CH. MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW CAPITOL BLDG ST PAUL MINN

WILL MEET YOU TOMORROW NOON ARRANGE TO STAY WITH US OVER SUNDAY

HERBERT.

3620

*S. Buck
247 P Del*

2240

*6072
2109*

SEP 22 PM 2 36

December 14, 1916

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44 St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

I am afraid that you and Dorothy will think me a poor sort of a brother not to have acknowledged your telegrams long ago. I really appreciated them very much, but I appreciated still more your letters, as I had not had one from you for a long, long time.

There are a great many things that I want to tell you about, but I am very busy as usual, and as I expect to see you in a couple of weeks, I will postpone them until then.

Mother tells me that Dorothy will be up during the holidays and I am very glad, indeed, that she is coming.

I am planning to leave here on the Pioneer Limited Christmas night which will get me into the Union station in time to take the 9:30 Pennsylvania Tuesday A. M. I am very anxious to get to Cincinnati in time to attend the M. V. H. A. dinner Tuesday night. Ford is planning to go at the same time and I hope you will arrange to travel with us.

By the way, shall we get a room together again this year? If agreeable to you, will you write at once to the Hotel Sinton, which is the headquarters of the A. H. A. I enclose a circular with reference to rates, as you may not have received one. I should think that a double room with bath at \$3.50 or \$4.00 would be satisfactory. In case we cannot get in at the Sinton, we might try the Gibson, which I understand is directly across the street and which will be headquarters for the Political Science Association. If you have other plans, please let me know at once in order that I may secure a reservation.

Fraternally yours

April 16, 1917

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44 St.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Herbert:-

I appreciate very much your invitation to stay with you during the M. V. H. A. meeting, and if I can possibly do so, I will arrange to stay with you Saturday night and Sunday. The other nights, however, I think I had better stay at the hotel, as I will have a great many things to look after.

I expect I will leave here Wednesday night, the twenty-fifth, arriving Thursday morning, but have made no arrangements as yet as to train. I expect that Holbrook will go down with me and Stevens will probably go down Thursday night.

The legislature has only three more days of its session, and our affairs are still all up in the air. I will surely be glad when it is over.

Cordially yours

May 10, 1917

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44 St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

Life gets more strenuous every day, and consequently I have neglected to let you know of my safe arrival from Chicago and to thank you for the good times which you helped to give me while there.

Ford leaves for Washington tonight to take a position on the staff of the government public information committee. This is in response to a telegram telling him to come for the duration of the war. He says that he will look the situation over and decide after he gets there whether he will remain longer than summer. I certainly hope it will be possible for him to be back in the fall.

I have been trying to locate the book referred to on the enclosed clipping without success, and I am writing you for more information, and especially for the name of the publishing company which I cannot make out with certainty. Do you suppose you could locate the advertisement again? Was the name of the author given? If such a book was ever published we certainly ought to secure a copy if possible.

Give my best regards to Dorothy.

Sincerely yours

P. S. Be sure ~~to~~ return the enclosed card.

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RECEIVED AT 332 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Killar

1917 DEC 19 AM 11 09

A 152CH 16

FY CHICAGO ILLS 939A 19

355

SOLO N J BUCK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW CAPITAL BLDG ST PAUL MINN

HAVE ROOM FOR TWO FOR FIVE DOLLARS AT BELLEVUE STRATFORD CAN YOU COME

IN WITH ME

HERBERT.

1917 DEC 19 AM 11 09

December 19, 1917

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44 St.,
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Herbert:-

Your telegram just received. I shall be very glad to share your room at the hotel in Philadelphia, and have just written to cancel my own reservation.

I wrote you a letter last night which will probably reach you the same time as does this.

Sincerely yours