



[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.

FEB 19 1916

W.N.C. CARLTON,
LIBRARIAN.

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY,
CHICAGO.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE LIBRARIAN.

Jan 21, 1916.

My dear Buck,

Enclosed is a short statement of a plan for the organization of the Conference which I am sending you, below, & severance before sending to the committee. I want something simple, something that will not break with the A.S.A. in the slightest, and that will help out in the work.

I am having trouble with Allen. He has just sent a contribution of \$50. which I have returned and told him the truth of my feeling.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H. Shearer

Delayed in sending
because of enclosures.

FEB 19 1916

The Conference of Historical Societies, organized in 1900, meets every year in connection with the meetings of the American Historical Association, to discuss questions of interest to the societies. It is composed of delegates representing societies in the United States and Canada which ^{contribute} \$1.00 per hundred members towards the expenses of the Conference and publications (in no case over \$10.00; for commissions, surveys etc., \$2.00; for societies under 50 members, 2c per capita). It publishes a list of societies and a summary of proceedings shortly after the annual conference; and a full report in the A.H.A. report. It elects its own chairman, votes on the nomination of secretary made by the Council of the A.H.A., and chooses such other officers and committees as seem best.

February 26, 1916

Mr. Augustus H. Shearer
The Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Shearer:-

I am in receipt of your letter of January 21 forwarding a statement as to the proposed re-organization of the Conference of Historical Societies.

I have only one suggestion to make, and that is that if the officers are to be elected by the Conference, it will be necessary to determine pretty definitely the voting membership. Should each delegate present have one vote, or should each society have one vote, or should the votes be apportioned according to dues paid to the Conference? I am not quite sure that I understand the significance of "votes on the nomination of the secretary made by the Council of the A. H. A." If this means that the selection of the secretary is actually made by the Council and merely ratified by the Conference, I cannot see as it would be much of an improvement. Would it not be better to have the secretary nominated by the Conference and require the nomination to be confirmed by the Council?

A. H. S. 2/26/16--2

The receipt of your letter called attention to the fact that I had not yet filled out and sent to you the questionnaire for the Minnesota Historical Society. I trust it is not too late to have this included in the report.

I was much interested in the book slips which you enclosed. The Knox County Directory is a new one to me. The Letters from North America is apparently the same as number 145 of my bibliography. Have you seen a copy of the Kane and Kendall Counties, Biographies, (Beers, Leggett & Co., 1888)? Number 873 of my bibliography is a biographical work on Kane County published by the same firm in the same year. There is a copy of this in your library. I am wondering what relation the work on the two counties bears to this.

Sincerely yours

SEP 9 1916

Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1916.

My dear Buck,

What do you know about
the Illinois system of "affiliated"
local historical societies? I
have an idea it is worth nothing
at present. Do you know of
any one who comes to talk on it
at the Conference - except Alvord,
whom I do not want to draw
on again so soon. I may
write Alvord, but thought I would
drop you a line first.

How are things going? I
enjoy your Bulletin every
issue I have nothing on

1911 # 438
Laud for publication just
now, but we are working
pretty hard in the Library,
Bibliographically.

Yours sincerely

Augustus H. Shearer

I meant to say that in view
of the proposed closer organization
of the Conference, the subject of
discussion is likely to be "Sub-feder-
ations and Affiliate Societies."
How does that strike you?

September 12, 1916

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Shearer:-

I do not know as I can be of much help to with reference to the Illinois system of affiliated local historical societies. I know practically nothing about it myself and doubt very much if Alvord knows more. Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, the secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society, doubtless knows all about it, but you probably know Mrs. Weber.

We have no affiliated local societies in Minnesota, because we have practically no such societies to affiliate. I am hoping to see a number organized in the near future, however, and I think that the general subject which you suggest for the meeting of the conference is an excellent one. I have followed the work of the Pennsylvania State Federation with a great deal of interest.

Sincerely yours

SEP 15 1916

Newberry Library
Chicago
Sept. 13, 1916.

My dear Buck,

How would you like
to work up the subject of "affili-
ated" ^{local} societies in Ill. Wis. Ala.
Iowa & wherever else, since you
are thinking about the subject
for Minnesota, and must necessarily
get together data, to work out
your scheme, avoid pitfalls, etc?
Quaibe side-steps on the question
of success & knows of no one
who could discuss the Wisconsin
system. Since your letter came,
I will write to Alvord.

While we are speaking
about, I would enclose a list

of Minnesota Societies. Are
they all alive? Are
there any more? Would
be glad to get authoritative
information.

Yours sincerely,
Augustus N Sheare

September 15, 1916

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Shearer:-

I am very sorry but I could not possibly take up the subject which you suggest. As I intimated in my previous letter, I know very little about the matter now and my obligations are so many that I could not possibly take the time to investigate it.

I would suggest Shambaugh or one of his minions, possibly Dan E. Clark. I think Iowa has accomplished more along this line than any other state in the Northwest, so it would be logical to have the subject you suggest handled by an Iowa man.

I can give you the name of one additional society in Minnesota, the Blue Earth County Historical Society, organized at Mankato last May. The officers are president, Lorin Cray; vice president, James M. McConnell; treasurer, F. K. Meagher; secretary, Mrs. Helen Hughes Hielscher. So far as I know this is the only local historical society in Minnesota. The Minnesota Valley Historical Society was never anything but a name and has been defunct for many years. I have never heard of the Red Wing Historical Society. The various old settlers and pioneer associations

A. H. S. 9/15/16--2

are scarcely entitled ^{to be} classified as historical societies. The same is true of the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences.

Sincerely yours

October 12, 1916,

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer,
Newbury Library,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Shearer:-

I wonder if you have on your list of local Historical Societies, the Catholic Historical Society of St Paul, Rev. John Seliskar, Secretary, St Paul Seminary. If I recollect correctly, this was not on the list which you sent recently, and I forget to call your attention to it. I am too lazy to look up the correspondence.

This Society is unusually active, and publishes an Annual entitled The Acta et Dicta.

Sincerely yours,

December 16, 1916

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Shearer:-

I have your letter of the thirteenth and appreciate very much the trouble which you have taken in answering my inquiry about the handling of the genealogical pages of the Boston Transcript. I am planning to write to the Lynn Public Library and make some inquiries about their card index to this material.

I am looking forward with interest to the receipt of your report on the reorganization of the Conference of Historical Societies. I am quite sure that the Minnesota Historical Society will be willing to give the conference financial support if it can be organized in such a way as to make its work of real value.

Sincerely yours

April 7, 1917

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Newberry Library
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Shearer:-

Can you send me another copy of the report of the last conference of historical societies. The copy which I received has been mislaid and I need one very much.

I hope I will see you in Chicago during the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting. There are a number of matters that I want to talk over with you.

Sincerely yours

APR 24 1917

W.N.C. CARLTON,
LIBRARIAN.

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY,
CHICAGO.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE LIBRARIAN.

April 23, 1917

My dear Buck,

Your letter of April 7 received
an answer only in the sending
of the Conference Report. I have
heard from H.V. Ames as to the
general features of the next A.H.A.
meeting, but want to talk over
program etc with the M.V.H. men
here. Can you bring with
you (or send) information as to
Acta et Vita, when it started,
how often it appears, who publishes
it?

I think your first vol. of the Bulletin
makes a creditable ending to an interesting
publication.

Yours sincerely
Augustus H. Shear

October 22, 1917

Dear Shearer:-

I have just learned of your new appointment and want to congratulate you. I know very little about the Grosvenor Library, but I am sure it must be a desirable position.

My letter of last Wednesday addressed to you at the Newberry Library, and telling you of the appointment of Charles E. Graves of Illinois to our librarianship, has doubtless been forwarded to you. We think we are getting a very good man.

I hope I will have the pleasure of seeing you in Philadelphia during the holidays.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Librarian Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

OCT 25 1917

Board of Trustees
Wm. Gaertner, M. D., President
John H. Lascelles, Treasurer
Louis B. Hart, Secretary

The Grosvenor Library

A reference library of 112,000 volumes, for the free use of the public.
Incorporated 1859. The charter prohibits the removal of books from the rooms.
Open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. (Sunday hours 2-6 P. M.)

Augustus H. Shearer, Ph. D.
Librarian
Frederick C. Wood
Ex-Librarian
Richard F. Morgan
Assistant Librarian

Buffalo, N. Y. Oct. 23, 1917.

S. J. Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul,
Minn.

My Dear Buck:

Your letter was forwarded to me here. I have been intending to write you for sometime about this change, which I intimated might come about, but the great pressure of work at The Newberry in the last weeks I was there and the matter of getting settled here has prevented my writing until your letter reminded me of it.

I wish I could have seen Mr. Graves and talked with him. I am glad you have him and trust he will be all that you wish. I did think of one other man but, of course, I should have mentioned him long ago.

Just at present I am working at full speed on the matter of the Conference and have Judge Barratt of the Sons of the Revolution as the principal speaker on the subject of cooperation between the Hereditary Patriotic Societies and the Historical Societies especially in the matter of publication. Probably Prof. Libbey of Princeton, R. C. Thruston Ballard and a member of the Council will be on the program to discuss the matter. Can you suggest another speaker, preferably connected with a historical society and not from the East? Of course my mind turns to yourself, Alvord, Shambaugh and Quaife all of whom are interested and alive to the question but all of whom have spoken more than once before. I expect you to take part but who shall go on the program? I am writing under pressure of the necessity of quick action or would say something at length about myself and the library here,

Very sincerely yours,

Augustus H. Shearer

Conference of Historical Societies, 1917.

The Conference will be held in connection with the meetings of the American Historical Association Saturday, December 29, 1917 at 10 A.M. at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1500 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Thomas Lynch Montgomery, State Librarian of Pennsylvania, will preside.

The hereditary patriotic societies, which held a separate conference last year at Cincinnati, are asked to join this conference, the main topic of discussion being of interest to them as well as to historical societies. This topic is, "The Relation of the Hereditary Patriotic Societies and the Historical Societies, with especial reference to cooperation in publication." This is part of the subject ~~of the general relation~~ referred to the Council of the American Historical Association by the Conference of hereditary patriotic societies last year, and as the President of the American Historical Association says, may bring forth something which will prevent the really frightful duplication of labor and printing.

Judge Norris S. Barratt of Philadelphia, of the Sons of the Revolution, will open the discussion, and it will be discussed, war duties allowing, by Prof. Libbey of Princeton (Colonial Wars, Sons of the Revolution), Mr. R. C. Ballard Thurston of Louisville (Sons American Revolution, Colonial Wars, Filson Club), John Wolf Jordan (Historical Society of Pennsylvania) and others.

At this conference, there will be elected a chairman for 1918, a secretary for the Council of the American Historical Association to confirm, and such committees as the conference desires. This means putting into effect the plan of independent organization adopted last year.

As a basis for organization, it is expected that only societies which contribute to the support of the Conference will vote. How many votes may be allowed must be determined. Societies are asked to contribute one cent a member up to ten dollars; commissions, surveys, etc. to give five dollars.

This question of a national conference with independent financing and officers has attracted some attention, and some societies, as the Mattatuck Historical Society of Waterbury, Conn. have discussed and voted in favor. To some societies which are already contributing to State Federations (as in Mass.) and Pa.) it may seem like an added burden, ^{and} this ought to be discussed and set aright. The results may not seem very tangible at present, but the conference every year reaches societies in a different locality, together with representatives from a distance who always make a point of attending. This year a special invitation is given to the societies from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York.

Another very tangible result of the Conference is expected in 1918 in a Handbook of Historical Societies which will be published together with a summary of the proceedings of the Conference, to include not only the information from the societies reporting in full on the enclosed question, ^{name} but such facts as are known from all societies in the United States and Canada. This can be done, despite war prices and war taxes, if any sort of a response is made to this circular.

Please send nominations, contributions, replies to questionnaire, suggestions, to the Secretary of the Conference,---

Augustus H. Shoerer
Cresvener Library
Buffalo
N.Y.

A second notice will be sent about Dec. 1, 1917 in the final edition of the American Historical Association.

October 25, 1917

Mr. Augustus H. Shearer
The Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

Dear Shearer:-

Your letter of October 23 has just reached me.

It seems to me that Quaife would be the most satisfactory additional speaker for your program, for the reason that his society has been inactive cooperation with the Hereditary Patriotic Societies in the way of publications, and therefore he could probably tell something about its experiences.

I do not think that the fact of his having been on the program several times before is as serious an objection to him, as his lack of terminal facilities. Could not you set a definite time limit and then ask the chairman to hold him to it?

By the way, does your library have any considerable number of duplicates which it desires to dispose of? We have just compiled a list of about three hundred, consisting of the rarest and most valuable items from our several thousand duplicates. Prices have been assigned to these items as a basis for an exchange arrangement.

As soon as possible after we move into the new building, we expect to list the remainder of our duplicates, most of which will be offered on a piece for piece exchange basis. We will be glad to send copies of these lists to you if you are in a position to undertake such an exchange arrangement.

Sincerely yours

November 9, 1917

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Shearer:-

I am in receipt of the circular anent the Fourteenth Conference of Historical Societies, and I am returning to you your questionnaire herewith.

With reference to the payment of dues, I have done nothing as yet because I feel that we ought first to have a more definite organization and an understanding as to the period for which dues are to be paid. The Minnesota Historical Society desires, however, to be enrolled as a member of the Conference as soon as a formal roll of members is started, and will pay its dues as soon as the details of organization are determined.

It seems to me personally that the best procedure would be to wait until after the meeting, and then send formal invitations to all the societies on the mailing list to become members of the Conference and to pay dues for a year beginning or ending at some definite date.

I am glad to see that you have made provision for a discussion of the "Collection of local war material by historical societies" in the Conference, but I doubt if the hereditary patriotic people will leave much time for the consideration of this subject. I remember a sad experience with some of these people at an earlier meeting; I think it was at Buffalo.

Cordially yours

Board of Trustees
Wm. Gaertner, M. D., President
John H. Lascelles, Treasurer
Louis B. Hart, Secretary

NOV 1 8 1917

The Grosvenor Library

A reference library of 112,000 volumes, for the free use of the public.
Incorporated 1859. The charter prohibits the removal of books from the rooms.
Open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. (Sunday hours 2-6 P. M.)

Augustus H. Shearer, Ph. D.
Librarian
Frederick C. Wood
Ex-Librarian
Richard F. Morgan
Assistant Librarian

Buffalo, N. Y. Nov. 15, 1917.

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

My Dear Buck:

Your letter of Nov. 9th received. As to payment of dues, I think nothing can be done to cover 1917 and we will rely on the A.H.A. appropriation. In order, however, that the matter may be definitely settled at the December meeting and that we may begin to receive an income in 1918, I am going to ask you to be chairman of a committee on finance and voting powers, to add to your committee whomever you may choose to consult and to report on Dec. 29th. I will ask Shambaugh to do the same as to needed committees and officers and Severance to get the nominations for chairman for next year, then I can report to the Council at their Dec. 1st meeting the state we are in; but we must have money next year, at least \$75.00, and I expect none from the A.H.A.

Further, will you be one of five to discuss the second topic on the program on the collection of local war material by historical societies? I am finding some difficulty in getting a man to lead off on that subject. both Fuller and Connor have agreed to say something and Fuller suggests Brown of Wisconsin, to whom I am writing. (also to Ludley)

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H. Shearer

November 17, 1917

Professor Augustus H. Shearer
The Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

Dear Shearer:-

I will be glad to serve as chairman of the committee on finance and voting powers of the conference, provided I take in the Philadelphia meeting. The prospects are now that I will be there, but I am not sure.

With reference to the other members of the committee, you should serve ex officio, of course, and there should be two or three others representing different parts of the country and different points of view, including some one connected with one of the state federations. I should very much prefer that you appoint these other members of the committee. Perhaps it would be best to wait until we get to Philadelphia in order that we can see who is there and talk things over.

I shall, of course, be glad to take part in the discussion of the collection of local war material by historical societies.

I suppose you know that Leland is to read a ~~communication~~ ^{paper} at the Conference of Archivists on "The Archives of War". I have also been asked to take part in the discussion of this paper and have received a list of the topics to be covered, one of which is "The collection by libraries and historical societies of manuscripts, clippings, circulars, posters, etc., relating mainly to local archives". The subject is so important that I do not think such incidental duplication as might occur would be at all serious.

Sincerely yours