



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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June 18, 1917

Professor Lester Burrell Shippee
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Henry
My dear Mr. Shippee:-

I am very glad to learn that you have accepted the appointment as lecturer in history in the University of Minnesota for next year, and look forward to meeting you in the fall.

It occurs to me that you might be interested to know something about the history of Course 5 and 6, the general course in American history, which you are to give.

Before I came to the University in the fall of 1914, this course was given by Professor Anderson, now of Dartmouth, and his plan seems to have been to carry it down only to the close of the Civil War. He had as a rule only about forty students, and consequently did not divide them into sections. When I took charge of the course, I planned it to come down to the present day, devoting only a couple of weeks to a general survey of colonial and revolutionary history at the beginning. I had a class of about eighty and handled it with general lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays, and divided into three quiz sections on Fridays.

In 1915-16, Professor Edgar Robinson of Stanford gave the course, covering about the same period, but making it entirely a lecture course. Last year, Professor Becker spent nearly all of the first semester on colonial and revolutionary history, and consequently was able to give very little time to the period since the Civil War. He organized the course for a general lecture on Monday and three quiz sections on Wednesdays and Fridays, and this is the arrangement which is scheduled for next year.

The policy of the department is to leave such matters largely to the instructor who has charge of the work, but when the instructors change as often as they have in this course, the result is not altogether satisfactory.

L. B. S. 6/18/17---2

Should you prefer to handle the course with two lectures instead of one each week, I am quite sure that there would be no objections on the part of the department. At any rate, I hope that you will decide to put the main emphasis on the national period, thus making the course correspond to the catalogue statement, which still stands as I drew it up in 1914.

If I can be of any assistance to you in planning your work, or making arrangements here, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours

Associate Professor of History

Address:
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

JUN 27 1917

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Phenix, Rhode Island,
24 June, 1917.

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

My dear Professor Buck:

Your letter of the 18th inst was received a few days since, but, as I have during the past week been engaged with College Entrance Board Examinations, I have been unable to make a prompt reply.

I am much interested in what you have to say about the general course in American History (5 and 6)., for, since so far I have been unable to obtain a copy of the Science, Literature and Arts Bulletin, I could not tell much about the scope or intention of the courses. Incidentally I have asked Professor Krey to send me this bulletin as well as that of the Graduate School, so I expect soon to have them.

As to the ground covered by the course, I agree with you that the important part is that of the constitutional period, so, were I blocking out a general course to suit myself, I should plan to devote only the first few weeks to the pre-constitutional period and put the bulk of the work on the period from 1787 to the present time. As to the method of treatment, my impression now is that I should prefer to have two lecture periods per week and save the other day for quiz sections; it is possible that I should desire to modify this when I found myself on the ground; the number of students taking the course might make a modification advisable.

I am indeed grateful to you for telling me the situation with regard to the course, and very likely I shall avail myself of your kind offer of assistance. Just at present, naturally, our plans for next year are nebulous; the first problem will be the living question, and that is one, I presume, that must be settled on the ground. I am, however, attempting to have our things arrive in Minneapolis in time to greet us when we reach that place.

For about a month we shall be at the above address, and after that in Bristol, Connecticut (RFD # 1) until it is time to start west.

I look forward with interest to meeting my colleagues for the next year at Minnesota.

Sincerely Yours,

Arthur Bonnell Shippee

JUL 30 1917

Bristol, Connecticut, RFD # 1.
27 July, 1917.

My dear Professor Buck,

I am taking you at your word; when you wrote me a little time ago in regard to some of the work at the University, you asked me to call on you for assistance if that might be desired. A little information would not come in amiss.

// Can you give me any inkling as to the house or flat situation within convenient distance of the University? We are taking our furniture, and we shall be looking for a place of about seven rooms in which to live. I do not know whether it is possible for one to do anything in advance, but I feel a little less helpless if I have some advance information as to desirable neighborhoods where one can find living accommodations, something as to the price of flats and houses, and the like.

// There is one other point on which I should like a word of enlightenment; does the University pay its salaries in monthly installments, ten installments, quarterly, or in what manner. I have struck various methods already, and it seems to be the policy of each institution to let new members of the faculty discover as best they can all these interesting little items, just as it seems to be understood that by some intuitive method all the rules and regulations are expected to be absorbed as soon as one is on the campus.

// We expect to leave these parts for Minneapolis about the first of September, altho I note on a copy of the general information bulletin that there is a possibility that the University may not open its session in the fall until sometime in October. I presume that definite information will be given faculty members if such a postponement takes place.

// By the way, there is one other item I had in mind: is there such a thing as a bulletin that outlines the undergraduate courses? So far I have tried in vain to secure such a document; general information and graduate school bulletins I have received, but none of the undergraduate school.

Your vacation, I trust, is proving satisfactory, with the desired portion of recreation. (?)

Very truly yours,

Lester Bonnell Shipper

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

July 31, 1917

Professor Lester Shippee
Bristol, Connecticut.
R. F. D. 1.

My dear Mr. Shippee:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 27 and will be glad to assist you to the extent of my ability. First with reference to the house problem: the section of Minneapolis near the University is known as Southeast, and most of the members of the faculty live there, either north or east of the University campus. There are quite a number of houses and flats in this neighborhood for rent at the present time, but many of them probably could not be held until September first or later. If you wish me to do so, I would be glad to put you in touch with some real estate agents and to take a look at such places as seem most promising. In this case it would be well for you to give me a pretty definite idea of your desires in the way of modern improvements, etc., and the amount of rent which you would be willing to pay. For a house of seven rooms you would have to pay from twenty-five to forty dollars, depending upon location and improvements. The rental price of a flat depends of course on whether it is heated by the owner or by the renter. There are a number of duplexes and four ~~room~~ apartment houses with separate furnaces for each apartment. Would you consider taking a furnished house? The prospects are that there will be a number of these available. Our next door neighbor a doctor on the University faculty, expects to be sent to France and wants to rent his house furnished. Dean Ford's house will also be for rent if he decides to remain in Washington.

So far as the University work is concerned I can see no reason why it would be necessary for you to arrive before October first. The regents have set October 10 as the date for the opening of the University. This means, I believe, the date of the first recitations, and it will be desirable to be on hand at least a week or two before that, for registrations, etc. On the other hand you will probably have to begin paying rent on your house or flat September first, as that is the time when most leases expire in the University neighborhood. The month of September is usually very pleasant in Minneapolis, and you might find it worth your while to come on the first of September.

The University salaries are paid in monthly installments, and the fiscal year begins August first, so that your first check

Professor Lester Shipper.

will be for the month of August and will be received about September first.

The bulletin of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts for next year will probably be out some time next month. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of this bulletin for last year which will probably give you some of the desired information.

It has been very hot here the last week, and will probably continue so during the most of August, but the autumn weather is usually delightful in this vicinity.

Let me know of any further assistance which I can render and especially your desires with reference to the house problem.

Sincerely yours,

AUG 9 1917

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Bristol, Connecticut, RD # 1,
5 August, 1917.

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

My dear Mr. Buck:

Your full and instructive reponse to my inquiries was received yesterday, and I am availing myself again of your kind offer of assistance, at least in part, for I hope that I shall not strain too far the kindness of my future colleagues before I arrive on the scene of action. We are planning to leave here on September 1st, and shall expect to reach Minneapolis on the morning of September 3d. consequently we shall wish to engage a house as soon as possible and get settled. Of course I should expect to take the place from the first of September, and I should even be willing to take it at some time in August, should that be necessary and expedient.

As to the house: we wish seven rooms, not less; I hope that I might obtain a suitable place for \$30.00 per month, but I if necessary I would pay \$35.00. In order of preference we place the single house first, the duplex next, and then a flat. I should expect that there would be a furnace of some sort, (I prefer hot water or steam, but this is not a vital point); electricity is desirable, with gas a second, but gas in the kitchen for cooking purposes is very essential. We should wish the floors, at least of the living rooms, to be such that rugs could be used, for we have no carpets, and hard wood is, of course preferable to soft. Of course we should expect modern plumbing arrangements. Mrs. Shippee reminds me that closets are a feature of all properly built houses, so I presume that all the available places in the vicinity of the University would be adequately supplied. Among the minor but pleasing features is a fireplace somewhere in the house. In some places it is the custom for the owner of rented houses and flats to install a range, either coal or gas, together with facilities for heating water; whether this is the custom in Minneapolis I do not know but a place with such facilities would suit us, especially if the water-heating apparatus were connected with the furnace as well as with something in the kitchen. This latter point is not one of the first essentials, but I am trying to give a pretty definite idea of what we wish. I may say that if the place were heated by the landlord I should expect the rent to be correspondingly greater than that which I have mentioned.

Since we expect to remain permanently somewhere in the West we have sent on our goods to Minneapolis, hence an unfurnished house would fill the bill better than a furnished.

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

If there should be a choice between two houses, otherwise about equal in points desired, the presence of a yard would be considered a decided advantage.

An agent is usually interested in the size of a family going into a house; besides Mrs. Shippee and myself there is one other adult, (a mother's helper), and two children, a girl nearly five years old and a fourteen months' boy.

I am glad to take advantage of your offer to put me in touch with some real estate agents. If, as you indicate, the house proposition begins to become complicated about the first of September, I would appreciate much your willingness to take a look at promising places; further, if there should be something desirable which might be in danger of being snapped up, I would even like to have you take an option, or if that should not be feasible, engage the house, and I will send a check immediately to the agent for the first month's rent, for I assume that rents are payable in advance, as I have found that to be the case wherever I have been in the West so far. Mrs. Shippee gives me carte blanche in the matter, in order that we may run less risk of being left among the late comers who have difficulty in finding a desirable house.

If there should be no especial hurry, and agents had two or three places which seemed satisfactory, perhaps the agents would be willing to send floor plans (rough ones of course) to give an indication of the lay of the land. This, however, while useful, would not be a necessity.

Your hot wave of a week ago reached us here on the Atlantic seaboard, and the first four days of this week have been about as unpleasant as any I remember to have experienced. Now we are having ideal summer weather. Friends of ours who have been in Minneapolis speak, as you do, of the very pleasant late summer and early autumn, consequently we look forward with pleasure to spending September there before the active work of the year begins.

Let me thank you again for your kind offer of assistance, and for what you may do in the house matter. Please do not make a burden of the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Lt. Bunell Shippee

August 14, 1917

Professor Lester B. Shippee
Bristol, Connecticut
R. F. D. 1

My dear Mr. Shippee:-

I enclose herewith notes on five houses for rent in southeast Minneapolis; also a map showing the location of these houses by number. The letters on the map indicate as follows: A, residence of Dean Ford; B, my residence; C, residence of Professor Krey of the History Department; O, President's house. You will note that these houses are usually not far from a railroad track, but it is impossible to get away from the railroads in southeast Minneapolis.

Most of the houses for rent at thirty-five dollars or less, are old and unattractive wooden structures, although frequently I have found that they were better on the inside than outside appearances would lead one to expect. The ones which I am describing seem to me to most nearly meet your requirements. I would recommend especially numbers 4 and 3; also number 1 if you could get along with six rooms.

^{soon} Most of these places are likely to be taken, so it might be well for you to telegraph me your choice in the matter, indicating first, second, and perhaps third choice, using the numbers which I have assigned to the places. If you would prefer to look over the ground yourself, you might arrange to come two or three days before the rest of the family and make your own selection from what would then be available. While some of the houses that are for rent now would doubtless be leased by that time, there might be others available then which have not come on to the market as yet.

Sincerely yours

No. 1. 719 Fulton St. S. E.

New house -- south exposure -- six rooms. Living room with fire-place, dining room -- kitchen with new gas range -- upstairs -- one very large bedroom with fireplace, two closets and four windows -- one moderate sized bedroom, and one small one -- bath room-- hot water heat -- good gas lighting fixtures. Owner now lives in house-- drafted-- asked \$40.00 -- will take \$35.00-- will not hold.

No. 2. 914 - 7th St. S. E.

Occupied by Professor Nicholson for nineteen years. Old house -- good neighborhood -- hard-wood floors on first floor --no fireplace -- hot air heat -- five rooms on first floor, three opening into each other -- screened porch -- second floor two fair-sized bedrooms, one back bedroom and one very small room, probably a storeroom. New electric light fixtures -- good yard. No range in kitchen. Rent \$35.00

No. 3. Como Ave. between 14th and 15th Avenues.

Faces park and playground -- small yard -- house in good condition -- hot air heat -- gas fireplace -- good floors -- good basement with laundry -- four rooms down stairs -- kitchen not heated from furnace -- tenant has coal range and gasplate for sale cheap -- four good rooms on second floor each with windows on two sides -- bath-room. Electric light fixtures on first floor only -- gas on second. Owner will put electric fixtures on second if necessary. Asked \$37.50, but will take \$35.00

No. 4. 1808 University Ave.

Good location near football field -- small yard -- house in good condition and attractive -- good basement-- laundry -- hot air heat -- fireplace -- three rooms and hall on first floor -- coat closet -- three good rooms on second floor and two rooms on third -- gas fixtures -- owner might put in electric for small increase in rent. Present rent \$33. Present tenant will sell gas range and water heater cheap.

No. 5. 506 Oak Street

Good neighborhood -- old house -- not attractive on outside -- newly decorated inside -- on street car line -- small yard -- combination heat -- fireplace -- four rooms on first floor -- four rooms and bath on second floor -- hardwood floors down only. Rent \$35.00

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
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Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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BRISTOL CONN AUG 17 1917

PROFESSOR SOLON J BUCK

MINNESOTA HISTORY SOCIETY

ST. PAUL MINN.

WILL TAKE DR WHITES HOUSE WITH USE OF BED ROOM FURNITURE
AND PIANO SINCE YOU SAY NOTHING TO CONTRARY ASSUME RENTAL
BEGINS SEPT FIRST.

L B SHIPPE

827P

AUG 17 PM 8 30

AUG 20 1917

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Bristol, Conn., R F D # 1,
18 August, 1917.

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

My dear Mr. Buck;

The night letter which I have sent today will undoubtedly answer all the essential questions with reference to the house problem. Your presentation of the attractions of the Dr. White house made it seem very desirable, consequently we are taking the gamble on the garage and the room.

It is, as you may imagine, a great relief to feel that when we reach Minneapolis we have a place to which to go as soon as we corral our furniture, a portion of which should already have arrived and be in storage there. There is, of course, the danger of trying to live up to a garage in the back yard and securing an inmate, but under the circumstances I think we shall be able to resist the temptation for a time.

As I indicated in my telegram, we can make use of the fittings for the bedroom, and the piano would be a welcome addition. I judged from what you said that the garage is to remain in the house; that is one of the attractions, among others.

Mrs. Shippee would appreciate it if Mrs. White could send a rough sketch of the floor plans, especially the second floor. Would it be likely that Mrs. White would have in the store room which she reserves space enough for two or three trunks? It would appear that we should find no store room space for such articles, unless the basement is dry so that there would be no trouble in storing them there; if it is dry, then that would do very well.

It is needless to say that we very much appreciate all the effort you have made for us, for we realize something of the trouble and work you have saved us. I hesitate to come and sit down before you for fear the sight of the house will bring to your mind the hot work you have had this summer, but it appears to be a psychological fact that those who have conferred great favors have a kind of weakness toward those upon whom the favors are bestowed, so I am trusting.

Sincerely yours,

L. B. Shippee

P.S. Two items: the address; and should I send the first month's rent, or wait until I arrive to pay it?

August 20, 1917

Professor Lester B. Shippee
R. F. D. 1
Easton, Conn.

My dear Mr. Shippee:-

Your telegram arrived Saturday, and the information was duly conveyed to the Whites.

I am now in receipt of your letter of August 18. You can have possession of the house September 1, if necessary, but Mrs. White would prefer to hold it until September 15, which will give her more time to get packed up. Unless your plans are such that they cannot readily be changed, I presume you would be glad to save half month's rent in this way. They would like to know as soon as possible, of course, in order that they may plan accordingly. On the whole, I should think it would be best to have the lease drawn to run from September 15 to June 15.

The Whites have considerable furniture and there may not be room for your trunks in the space which they reserve. If not, you can either keep them in the basement or in our attic, which is readily accessible.

I doubt if it makes any material difference to the Whites whether the first month's rent is paid now or after you arrive, but I will speak to them about it this evening. The address is 424 Walnut St. S. E.

Sincerely yours

August 28, 1917

Professor Lester B. Shippee
Bristol, Connecticut
R. F. D. 1

My dear Mr. Shippee:-

I fear you will not be so grateful to me for my services after reading this letter, although I assure you that the unfortunate situation which has arisen is not altogether my fault.

Mrs. Shippee's letter was delivered to me Sunday, but unfortunately the Whites were out of town and I had no opportunity to see them until this morning. Mrs. White certainly gave me the impression in the beginning that they could give up the house September, if necessary, although I understood that they would prefer not to do so. Now, however, Dr. White says that it will be absolutely impossible for them to get their furniture packed up and get out by September 3. He states, however, that they will give you possession just as soon as possible and is quite sure that they can do so by Thursday, September 6. They are also unwilling to let you retain possession until July 1, as they expect to return as soon as the school year is over. There seems to be some doubt at present as to just when the University work will terminate, so the Dr. said he would put it that you might retain possession until the end of Commencement week. As all University work, including examinations and reports thereon, is completed the previous week, this would give you practically a full week after the close of the University work for packing up.

Naturally I regret very much that this misunderstanding has arisen, particularly if I have been in any way remiss in the matter, but there seems to be nothing to do now but make the best of the situation. Should you feel inclined to give up the place entirely and attempt to secure something else, I think that you would be perfectly justified in doing so, but I am not sure that you would gain anything thereby. There will be at least two unoccupied rooms in our house during the first week in September, and we would be very glad, indeed, to have part of your family occupy these rooms while waiting for the Whites to get packed up. You could have your trunks sent from the

L. B. S.
8/28/17--2

train to our place, and then it would be a very simple matter to carry them over to the White's after they leave. Our family consists of my father and mother and myself, and a maid, and it would not inconvenience us in the least to make this arrangement. Your furniture could then remain in storage until the Whites are out.

Dean Ford has decided to remain in Washington, and Stevens, an instructor in the History Department, has a commission in the army, so that we are looking for men to take their places next year.

If you will let me know on what train you expect to arrive in Minneapolis Monday morning, I will be very glad to meet you at the station with my car and take you out to the house. You can then come to an understanding with the Whites or look for another place at your leisure.

Sincerely yours