Solon J. Buck Papers.

Version 3
August 20, 2018

Louisville, Ky.
Oct. 25, 1918.

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

My dear Dr. Buck:- Your letter addressed to me at Winona was forwarded to me here. I presume that my removal from the state will prevent me serving on the Commission. If there is anything that I can do in connection with the work I shall be very glad to do it.

I came here about a month ago to accept an Assistant Professorship of History in the University of Louisville. We

started here on Wednesday Oct. 2 and closed the following Saturday on account of the "Flu". We do not know just when we shall start again but hope it will be next week.

I have some good courses here and have prospects of work about like I want it. This year I am giving History 1-2 — about like the course there. Have about seventy enrolled in this course. Then I have the American History — about like 5-6 there — with twenty-five students. This year I am giving the beginning

course in Economics because the war has about cleaned out Economics men. After this year my work will be American History and I shall have a course in the History of the West and Recent American History. Also one in American Diplomatic History, probably. I believe I shall like it here when things get under way.

I have my thesis pretty well shaped up. When I get the last chapters typewritten I shall send them to you for your approval. Then I

shall have the whole thing typewritten again in form to submit to the Committee. I hope to get it all to you before a great while and hope to get the examinations this year — probably about spring vacation if it can be arranged.

If there is anything I can do regarding the work of the Commission, let me know. I am sorry I cannot be in the state to help with the work.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. P. Shortridge.

To University of Louisville.

NOV 15 1918

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1825 Sherwood Av.,
Louisville, Ky.
Nov. 9, 1918.

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

My dear Dr. Buck:- I am sending you, under separate cover by registered mail, the concluding chapters of my thesis and am enclosing postage for the return of the manuscript. I shall begin now to revise the chapters you have already looked over and when these last ones are returned with your corrections or suggestions I shall revise them and have the whole thesis typewritten and send you the three copies for use of the thesis committee. I would like to get it all in your hands by the first of the new year, if possible.

We have been taking a five weeks enforced vacation on account of the "Flu" but begin again Monday. It has had its advantages for it enabled me to finish these chapters.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,
W. P. Shortridge.

November 21, 1918

Mr. W. P. Shortridge
1825 Sherwood Ave.,
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

I should have acknowledged before this the receipt of the concluding chapters of your thesis. I have been extremely busy recently and it may be some little time before I can complete the examination of these chapters. I have made a beginning, however, and will push it as rapidly as possible.

I want to congratulate you on your new position. I learned of it from Krey shortly after you had been appointed, upon my recommendation, as a member of the War Records Commission.

Sincerely yours

B/P

December 3, 1918

Professor Wilson P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

I have now read the section of your thesis which you sent to me recently and am returning it to you under separate cover. On the whole, I think you have handled these chapters very well, and I feel that the thesis is going to be a satisfactory piece of work.

I have not attempted much in the way of literary revision of these chapters, but I want to repeat my suggestion that you have some one go over it for you, primarily with a view to improving the style. You write very well on the whole, but there is always room for improvement.

In chapter 9, there are rather extensive statements of fact without references to the sources of this information. Some of these I have indicated in the margin. Apparently you have not used Dr. Folwell's article on "The Five Million Dollar Loan" in volume 15 of the Collections; at least you appear to have no reference to it. In all of these chapters, it seems to me that you ought to endeavor to connect up the general material as specifically as possible with Sibley. Sometimes the reader quite loses sight of your hero.

Your account of the treatment of the Indians captured by Sibley and sentenced to death does not tally with my impression, but I have not taken the time to check it up. I am quite sure that these Indians, instead of being sent to Fort Snelling with the other captives, were taken to a prison camp near Mankato.

I don't think that your summary statement as to the final solution of the Five Million Dollar Loan problem is quite accurate. Folwell explains this in his article, but he, if I remember correctly, makes a slip with reference to the final ratification by the people. You do not go into this, however.

With reference to the bibliography, I would suggest that you put the notes into the form of complete sentences in every case.

W. P. S. 12/3/18--2

The distinction between sections 4 and 5 appears to be somewhat artificial. Certainly much of the material under section 5 is source as well as secondary in character. I would suggest that you throw these two groups altogether under some such heading as "General and Miscellaneous Material."

Sincerely yours

B/P

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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Jan.27,1919.

Supt.Solen J.Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St.Paul,Minnesota.

My dear Dr.Buck:- I just came across this notice regarding dues that I thought I had sent in long ago. Am enclosing check for the amount and trust that I have not missed any of the numbers of the History Bulletin. I have the complete file and do not want to miss any.

My thesis is nearing completion now and I hope to have it in the Dean's office in a short time. I have gone over it all since receiving your corrections and criticisms and have tried to improve it. One of the men here consented to read it for style and I believe it is in better shape. I presume,however,that one would always feel that it might be a little better still and if one waited until he thought a manuscript perfect it would probably never be in print. I may have an opportunity to do some more work along this line sometime when in Minnesota to find cooler weather along about July or August some year. I have enjoyed my work on Sibley and greatly appreciate the assistance I have received from the members of your staff there and especially from you. I wish I were nearer so that I could do other work in the library.

I am enjoying my work here very much and feel that I made a good move in coming here. The prospects for next year are even better than it has been this.

Again thanking you and hoping to face you sometime in a Committee for examination for a doctor's degree,I am,

Very truly Yours,
W.P. Shortridge.

February 6, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

Your letter of January 27 reached me a day or two after I had read your letter to Ford. You have doubtless heard from him already.

I wish that some satisfactory scheme might be devised to obviate the necessity of your making two trips to Minneapolis, but the University is quite insistent that candidates for the doctors degree shall be present at Commencement, and I understand that it will be necessary for you to work off the language requirement and take the examination some time before Commencement, which is as you doubtless know, June 19. It might be possible to arrange to give you the written examination in Louisville, but I don't see how the other things could be managed.

I am glad to know that you have enjoyed your work on Sibley and will take pleasure in going through the completed manuscript when it comes to my hands.

Have you any plans for summer work? It is possible that we might have something for you here in connection with the Historical Society or with the War Records Commission.

The November number of our Bulletin was delayed by influenza and other things, and is not yet out. If you lack any earlier numbers, let us know and we will supply them.

Sincerely yours

B/P

FEB 10 1919

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Feb.7,1919.

Dr.Solon J.Buck,

Minnesota Historical Socitty,

St.Paul,Minnesota.

My dear Dr.Buck:- I am sending the three copies of my thesis to Dean Ford today. When the committee is through with the carbon cppies,I wonder if I could have one of them back. I presume the University will not want any but the original.

When the committee has passed upon the thesis I would like to have your advice about publishing it,in case it is accepted. You said last summer that you thought the University might publish it. If so,I presume that that would be the best way. I have worked several hours a day since November on it and went over the entire manuscript after it had been corrected. While I realize that it could always be made better,I feel that it has been made much better than it was when I first handed it in to you and hope that it will stand the test alright.

Thanking you very much for the assistance you have given me and for any advice you may give as to the final disposition of the manuscript,I am,

Very truly yours,

W.P.Shortridge.

FEB 19 1919

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Feb.15,1919.

Dr.Solon J.Buck,

St.Paul,Minnesota.

My dear Dr.Buck:- In reply to your inquiry regarding my plans for the summer,I have no definite plans as yet. When I left Winona President Maxwell told me that he wanted me there for summer work unless I had something else in mind but since the war has closed he wrote me that Dickerson wanted to return to his position there and might want the summer school work. There has been some talk of a summer school here but I do not believe it will materialize. If you should have a place for me,therefore,either in Society or War Records work,it might simplify matters for me. In some ways,I believe that kind of summer work would be more desirable than teaching so much. I shall be glad to hear from you in regard to it when you are ready to make definite plans.

I had a letter from Dean Ford since receiving yours and he stated the situation much as you did. I asked the Dean here about getting away for a few days in May to come up for examination and he said that he thought it could be arranged. If I have summer work up that way I would not mind the second trip to commencement,in case the first trip proved successful,as I would really like to be there. The expense of two trips was the chief point I had in mind. Perhaps it may all come out alright yet. It might make things a little better for me if I could take the written examination here in Louisville and have only the German and the oral examinations when I came to Minneapolis.

Thanking you very much for your inquiry regarding summer plans and hoping that everything comes out alright,I am,

Very truly yours,

W.P.Shortridge.

March 19, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

I received your letter of February 15 and I am glad to know that there is a possibility of your being available for summer work.

I cannot say anything more definite about the situation here than what was stated in my last letter. The prospects are that the War Records bill will pass, but there is no telling how large an appropriation will be made for this work. If we get all that we are asking for, we will want all the competent assistants available.

Two or three of the five members of your thesis committee have read the document and reported favorably upon it.

Sincerely yours

B/P

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Mar. 29, 1919.

My dear Dr. Buck,

In one of your letters you said that it might be arranged so that I could take my written examinations here in Louisville. I wish that this could be arranged. The questions could be sent to Dean John L. Patterson and I could write under his supervision and he could then mail the paper to Dean Ford. I would like to get this about May 1 and then come to Minneapolis about May 15–20 for the rest. (May 15 is pay day). ~~and~~ I could arrive there Saturday or Sunday following and take Oral Examinations on Monday May 19.

I have been under a physicians orders for about three weeks and doing very little mental work but am getting in shape now for study. This has interfered considerably with my study of German but on it I can only do my best — and that is none too good. I am glad to know that some of my thesis committee have approved it and shall be glad to hear the final outcome. I presume that unanimous approval by them is a condition precedent to the final examinations.

Please let me know when final decision is reached about the time and place of final examinations.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Shortridge

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Apr. 19, 1919.

My dear Dr. Beck,

I have been asked to prepare a paper on Sibley for the St. Louis meeting of the Mississippi Valley Association and would like to have your opinion as to which would be better, to concentrate on one phase of it – e.g. Sibley and the Fur Trade – or show how Sibley lived through and witnessed the evolution of society in Minnesota. One is intensive and the other extensive. I started to prepare the paper on the latter plan and discovered that I had enough for a twenty minute paper mainly on the fur trade. I can condense what I have and continue it or fix up this one part. I have not attended many meetings like this and was at a loss to know which would be more satisfactory.

In looking over the Graduate Bulletin of Chicago University I noticed that candidates for the Ph.D. were advised to confer with some member of the Department in order to get some idea of the scope of the final examinations so, as it said, "to make intelligent preparation". I do not want any information that I am not supposed to have but if you, at Minnesota, make suggestions I would be glad to have them. I do not know whether the examinations will be concentrated on particular fields of history – those in which I have had graduate work – or whether anything "from Adam to Woodrow" is likely to strike.

Any information that you may feel like giving me on above points will be gladly received.

Very truly yours,
W. P. Shortridge

April 21, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

I should have written you before that I am gathering up questions for your written examination and will see to it that they are sent to Dean Patterson sometime before May 1.

The examination, as I understand it, is supposed to take about six hours, three in the forenoon and three in the afternoon, and there will probably be from sixteen to eighteen questions. While the examination is supposed to be on the general fields of history rather than specific courses, I have gone over carefully the record of your work in Wisconsin and here in order to ascertain the fields in which you may be supposed to be best equipped. In each group of questions there will doubtless be an opportunity for selection.

The thesis has been approved by all the members of the committee.

There is very little prospect at present of my being able to offer you anything attractive in the way of summer work. The legislature has not taken final action as yet, but there have been hearings before the appropriations committees and the prospects are not very good. When do you finish your work there? I am wondering if it might not be possible for you to postpone the oral examination until after you are through there and then remain here until after commencement.

Sincerely yours

B/P

P. S. The above which I had dictated just before receiving your letter of April 19, answers one of your questions. With reference to a paper for the St. Louis meeting, I should think that the second alternative; i. e., the Evolution of Society in Minnesota (or, on the frontier) as illustrated in the life

of Sibley would be preferable, provided you can handle it in such a way as to make it something more thanaa bird's eye view of Sibley's career. You would have to sacrifice details ruthlessly and elaborate upon the significance of the facts you are dealing with, their typical character, etc.

In other words, your paper might be a contribution to the interpretation of the history of the west, not restricted to any one region or period, but with the illustrations drawn from Sibley's career. To write such a paper would, it seems to me, require a lot of time and thought, and if it does not seem to be feasible to undertake it, I am sure that a paper on Sibley and the Fur Trade would be very acceptable.

April 22nd

1 9 1 9

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Shortridge:

I think that Mr. Buck is already gathering the questions to send to Dean Patterson for the examination on May 1st.

If the time arrangements and the expenses make it advisable May 12th here will suit us for the oral examinations. Unless I hear from you otherwise, we shall count on that date and I am sending a carbon of this letter to Dr. Buck so he may have it in mind.

Sincerely

G S Ford

Dean

GSF:AEH

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Apr. 24, 1919.

My dear Mr. Buck,

Yours of 18th inst. received and I thank you very much for your suggestions. In regard to the paper for the St Louis meeting, I shall try the Evolution of society on the frontier. This seems best to me and partly so because it is harder to do — and will mean more if I can do a good job on it.

In regard to oral examination I am very much inclined to postpone ~~the~~ it until June and then remain for commencement. I had previously written Dean Ford and asked for May 12 but the other plan, as you suggest, would be so much better. I haven't heard from Dean Ford but may hear any time. If the other arrangement is satisfactory to him I would much rather do it. I asked Dean Patterson about it today and he said for me to do whichever was best and it would be alright with him. Our term does not close this year until June 14 but final examinations will begin about 10 days before then. They will put History examinations first and if necessary I could give them a day or so earlier. I would not really lose as much time from classes in that way as I would if I came there from St Louis. I think I can arrange to be there about June 5. From the statement in the catalog I notice that the final oral

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

examination is supposed to be about two weeks or so before Commencement and June 5 would be about that time. This plan will also give me more time for my St Louis paper and also for German, on which I am working like a very disloyal American. Please let me know at once if June will be alright for oral examination and I shall make my plans accordingly. The next week I shall give most time getting ready for the written examination and the following week for my St. Louis paper. Then I would have nearly four weeks for German and oral examination. That would be fine.

I am sorry if your plans do not go through for the War Records work — for Minnesota's part as well as for my own, but I understand how it is. If I do not work there during the summer, I would especially like to make one trip cover both oral examination and (if I am successful) the commencement.

Trusting to hear from you soon and again thanking you for what you have done for me, I am,

Very truly yours,
W. P. Shortridge

April 29, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

I am sending the questions to Dean Patterson today. As I have written him, you are expected to spend from six to eight hours on the examination, divided between forenoon and afternoon. It may be conducted on the honor system, and you should sign the usual pledge.

You will note that you are to write on a total of seventeen questions which will give you an average of at least twenty minutes for each answer. The questions in the different ~~grades~~ groups should be answered in separate books or beginning on separate sheets of paper, except that D and E may be included in the same book and also G and H.

I trust that you will recover from the examination in time to complete your paper and attend the St. Louis meeting as planned, for I am looking forward to seeing you there. I talked with Ford this morning about your oral examination and I am quite sure that June 5 or thereabouts will be satisfactory. You can make use of the time between that date and commencement going through a lot of territorial material which we have brought over from the governor's archives. You will certainly want to do this some time before your thesis is published.

With best wishes for your success.

Cordially yours

B/P

Shortridge

April 29, 1919

Dean John L. Patterson
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with the suggestion of Professor Wilson P. Shortridge, I am sending to you the questions for his doctor's examination. It is expected that he will write from six to eight hours on these questions, taking a whole day to it with an intermission at noon, of course.

We do not consider it necessary that he be under supervision all of the time that he is writing. In other words, the honor system may be used. The answers should be sent to me in care of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. paul.

Very truly yours

B/P

MAY 5 1919

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University of Louisville

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

LOUISVILLE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May three,
Nineteen nineteen.

Solon J. Buck Esq.,

The Minnesota Historical Society,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Sir:-

I have complied with your instructions in your letter of April 29, in regard to the examination of Professor Wilson P. Shortridge. He has carefully followed instructions. I am sending his answers to the questions by registered mail.

With high regards, I remain

Yours faithfully

John L. Patterson Dean.

JLP/LS.

May 17, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

The various members of the department have looked over your answers in the written examination and have agreed that they are acceptable.

As soon as you let me know the exact date on which it would be most convenient for you to have the oral examination, I will endeavor to make the necessary arrangements. As I understand it, you have still a language test to pass before the oral examination. Arrangements for that can doubtless be made on very short notice.

I have read your paper on Sibley somewhat hurriedly and am very much pleased with it. I am forwarding it to Alvord.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 22 1919

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 19, 1919.

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

My dear Mr. Buck:— Your letter containing the good news came today. As the questions came late in the morning of the day I wrote the paper and as I was keeping Dr. Patterson waiting until I finished it, I did not have time to re-read most of my answers and was not sure just what I did on some of them.

I am counting on leaving here the night of June 2 or morning of June 3 and arriving in Minneapolis the night of June 3 or morning of June 4. I have written to the German Department for an appointment for June 4 and shall be ready for the oral examination on June 5 — preferably perhaps in the afternoon but at such time as you designate. I dread the German more than I do the oral examination, except that it doesn't last so long.

There is a possibility or perhaps a probability that I shall teach at Winona during summer term and, if so, I shall probably spend most of August in the Twin Cities. At any rate I shall go through the new material on Sibley that you told me about. I am glad that you liked my paper on Sibley and was only sorry that I did not have more time on it. I have enjoyed the work on Sibley very much.

Hoping to hear the exact time of the oral exam., I am

Very truly yours,

W. P. Shortridge.

Dr. Frank Adams
Dr. Frank Adams
Dr. Frank Adams

May 28, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

In view of the teaching engagements of some of the members of the department, it seemed best to fix your examination for the morning of Thursday, June 5, at nine thirty. It will be held in the history seminar.

I trust that you will be well primed for the occasion.

Sincerely yours

B/P

June 3, 1919

Dean John L. Patterson
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Mr. Patterson:-

On behalf of the Department of History of the University of Minnesota, I want to thank you for the trouble which you took in connection with the written examination of Mr. Shortridge. His answers were duly received, have been read and found satisfactory, and arrangements have been made, as he has doubtless informed you, for his oral examination to be held on Thursday, June 5.

Sincerely yours

B/P

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Winona, Minn.,
June 22, 1919.

My dear Mr. Buck,

I left Minneapolis with a rather sudden notion and came here to see about summer work. I found such a delightful place to spend the summer here in a cottage by the lake that I decided immediately to stay.

Since I did not see you again after Commencement I want to take this means of thanking you again for the many kindnesses and the assistance I received from you in working out the Ph. D. I enjoyed the work with you very much and received both help and inspiration from my association with you. I hope to be back in Minnesota other summers and hope to do some more work in your library.

I also want to extend to you my very best wishes in the matrimonial venture upon which you are about to enter. The best I can wish is that it may bring you as much happiness as I believe you deserve. I trust that it will bring you all of that and if it does you will be very happy indeed.

If any more mail should come there for me will you please forward it to me here in care of State Normal School?

Very sincerely,
W. P. Shortridge.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Oct.16,1919.

Dr.Solon J.Buck,

Minnesota Historical Society,

St.Paul,Minnesota.

My dear Mr.Buck:- Enclosed you will find check for $2.00 for dues for the Historical Society for this year. I want to keep my file of the Bulletim complete.

Last June when I saw you you said that you wanted to take up the matter of the publication of my thesis sometime this fall. I have worked over a part of it during the summer and I think I can have the copy ready almost any time when you are ready,although I still have some typewriting work on some of the chapters. I hope it can be handled in the University Studies as that seems best if it can be done that way. I shall be glad to hear from you when you have something decided about it.

We are starting off the new year in good shape,with increased enrollment,and prospects are favorable for a good year. I hope things are going well at Minnesota.You no doubt have a large increase in enrollment also as it seems to be generally true throughout the country. Please give my regards to any of the men whom I know.

Very truly yours,

W.P.Shortridge.

October 23, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

Your recent letter was duly received and turned over to Dean Ford, who has promised to take up the matter of the publication of your thesis in the near future. I will keep you informed as to developments. I do not remember whether or not there were any other matters in the letter which called for reply. If so, they will be attended to when it comes back to me.

Everybody is swamped with work in the University this year, the freshman class being about twice as large as heretofore.

I trust that you are having a pleasant year in Louisville. You ought to plan to attend the American Historical Association meeting in Cleveland if possible. I shall probably not go this year. Having been nearly every time for the last thirteen years, I think that I am entitled to a Christmas vacation at home.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Nov.25,1919.

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

My dear Dr.Buck:- I am sending today to Dean Ford the copy of my thesis which I have gone over with a view to publication. I made new copies of some of the chapters and made corrections in other chapters. I trust that it may be accepted and published in the University Studies.

I shall greatly appreciate your "pushing it along" as you suggested in your recent letter,and I shall be glad to hear when the matter has been decided. I have enjoyed working on it and shall be glad to get it off now so I can get busy on something else. I am sorry I am so far from Minnesota because I would like to do more work in the field where I have made a beginning. I greatly appreciate all your kindness and assistance in my work on my thesis and in my work for the degree.

Again thanking you and trusting to hear when something is decided,I am,

Very truly yours,
W.P.Shortridge.

December 9, 1919

Prof. W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

Dean Ford told me the other day that he had received your thesis and that a committee would be appointed in the near future to read it and report upon the desirability of publishing it in the University Studies.

You will be notified as soon as a decision is reached, but everybody is so busy that it may take some little time.

Sincerely yours

B/P

December 12, 1919

Doctor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Doctor Shortridge:

I received the corrected copy of your thesis. We are, however, confronted with an embarrassing situation in the development of any program of printing this year. The University is steadily increasing the deficit which has been piling up due to a 33-1/3% increase in students and a doubling in the costs of all materials and supplies.

It seems almost certain now that the limited sum which was set aside for the printing of research monographs will be dumped into this yawning pit. The situation at least is such that I am obliged to hold up on printing projects and have not yet even submitted your manuscript to the Editorial Board.

Sincerely

Guy Stanton Ford.

Dean

GSF:AH

Copy to Doctor Buck

December 16, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

Ford sent me a copy of his letter to you of December 12, and I am at a loss to know what to recommend or suggest to you.

I had known, of course, that the University was in financial straits, but this was the first intimation I had that the publication fund was going to be wiped out.

You could doubtless get the thesis published by Arthur H. Clark, but probably only on the condition of your assuming part or all of the risk. Would there be any chance of your getting it published by the University of Louisville? The Minnesota Historical Society is worse off financially than the University, and has more material on hand for publication than it can possibly bring out in several years. If you want to try Clark or any other publisher, I shall be glad to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dec.19,1919.

Dr.Solon J.Buck,

St.Paul,Minnesota.

My dear Mr.Buck:-Your letter regarding the publication of my thesis came today. Since receiving Dean Ford's letter the other day I have been thinking quite a little about it but haven't made much headway as to what is best to do under the circumstances.At your suggestion I am writing to the Arthur H. Clark Co.regarding it and will let you know what I hear.

I had thought,before I heard from you,of asking you if you thought there might be an extension of time given by the University for its publication and let it go over until next year.If there are no immediate prospects of the deficit being removed,however,that might be only a putting off of the fatal day.Anyway it would be uncertain,as the Board of Editors have not examined it with a view to publication by the University.

I also wondered if there might be such a possibility as it might be at all in the class of writing that the American Historical Association considers.As it is the first piece of work I have done I have no idea as to what it is worth as a piece of work.I know I put in a great deal of time and much hard work on it,but do not know how much good it is. Sometimes I thought well of it and at other times I doubted about its value. I do not know whether it is at all what the Association considers,but that came to my mind.

I shall ask about its being published by the University of Louisville,but I doubt very much whether it could be done. At present we are trying to get $1,500,000 for new buildings and for salary increases and the situation is about like it is there,only perhaps more so.

I shall be glad to have any opinion or suggestion and will keep you informed as to developments.

Very truly yours,

W.P.Shortridge.

December 23, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Shortridge:-

I had a talk yesterday with Dean Ford about your thesis.

I do not think there is any possibility of getting it published by the American Historical Association, not because of its character or quality, but because, unless I am mistaken, the American Historical Association has decided not to publish its prize essays in the future. These essay competitions have now been thrown open to published as well as unpublished works, although they are still restricted to men who do not have already established reputations.

I can see no reason why you should not submit your thesis for the Justin Winsor prize, although the competition will be greater, of course, now that it has been opened up to works already published, but the winning of the prize would not insure its publication by the Association.

In view of what Ford had to say, I think you had better let the matter rest in status quo for a little while. I am sure that nothing will be done about your bond so long as the question of publication is up in the air, and it is possible that Ford may be able to save enough of his publication fund to put it through. At any rate, it will be possible to have the thesis read and passed upon with the understanding that if approved, it should be published as soon as funds might be available.

I hope that you are planning to attend the American Historical Association meeting at Cleveland. I am not going this year, but Ford, Notestein, and Tyler, at least, are going from here.

Sincerely yours

B/P

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dec.26,1919.

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

My dear Dr.Buck:-Your letter was received today and I was preparing to write to you when I received a reply from The Arthur H.Clark Co.which contained the suggestion which I was going to make.I am sending the letter along with this and shall be glad to have suggestions regarding it.

I had thought of a change of title if the manuscript was to be published elsewhere and had thought of something like this:-"The Transition of a Typical Frontier". Since receiving Clarke's letter I have thought that perhaps the title might be more suggestive of the Fur Trade. It might be something like the following:-"Transition of a Fur Traders' Frontier",or "The Fur Traders' Frontier in Minnesota". By some more work on it I might make it over into something that might at least partially pay for itself.

Since you suggested leaving it for the present in status quo I shall do nothing about it until I hear from you.If there is a possibility that the University might find a way to publish it,and if that seems best to you,I am perfectly willing to let it rest for the present. I wrote to Dean Ford suggesting that he return the manuscript to me,but if there is a possibility that the Board of Editors might pass on it with a view to publication,if funds are available,he need not send it to me. There is no particular rush as far as I am concerned,as long as the University is satisfied that the matter of publication is being considered.

Any suggestions that you may make regarding it and particularly as to the letter from The Arthur H.Clark Co. will be gladly received.

Very truly yours,

W.P.Shortridge.

December 30, 1919

Professor W. P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

I think that the present title of your thesis could be improved upon, but I do not think it would be wise to undertake a change in the point of view of the work or to adopt a title which indicates a different point of view. It might be possible to relegate Sibley to a subtitle, but it seems to me that something like the following expresses exactly what the work is and that is what a title should do: "The Life of Henry Hastings Sibley, a Study in the Transition of a Frontier", or "... Frontier Transition."

My recollection of the work is that only a small proportion of it is devoted to the fur trade, and consequently it seems to me that it would not be practical to attempt to follow out Clark's suggestion that the fur trade instead of Sibley should be the main title.

I will let you know as soon as there are any developments here. In the meantime, you will doubtless want to answer Clark's letter which you can do without committing yourself of course.

Sincerely yours

Encl.

B/P