



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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March 8, 1918

General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

The enclosed letter is the third of this sort which has been delivered at my address, 438 Walnut Street S. E., Minneapolis; the explanation being, I suppose, the fact that Mr. W. E. Stevens appears in the city directory as living at that place. *File* Mr. Stevens, who lived there last year, is now a lieutenant in the army, stationed, I believe, at Division Headquarters, Camp Cody, Deming, N. M., but he is ^{not} married and I know of no Mrs. W. E. Stevens.

Very truly yours

W.

said that if I was willing, he and Miss White would undertake to see my thesis through the press. He is going to try to get the Arthur H. Clark Co. to publish it. If they won't undertake it, he said the University would. I believe I shall accept his offer. While I should like very much to revise my work thoroughly before having it published, it may be a long time before I can do it and I am not likely to get another opportunity as favorable as this one. I have been thinking that I ought perhaps to incorporate

Urbana, Illinois,
April 3, 1918.

Dear Solomon:-

At last I am going to write you the letter which I have been planning for a long time. As you will see, I am at home now. By experiencing a little diplomacy, I succeeded in getting a fifteen day leave. I started a week ago Sunday, arriving home on the following Tuesday. On Thursday morning Dorothy came down and she has been with us since then. (This is her ink that I am using. Don't it splendid?) We have certainly been enjoying ourselves to the utmost and I am already dreading the time when

I must go back. I expect to leave Friday, in time
so as to reach Camp Cody April 8.

We have wished a number of times that we might
have you with us for a reunion for we had some
very fine times together last year. The other day
an agent brought down an Edison machine which
he wanted us to try and we have been playing
some dance records. It seems very much like
old times.

I haven't any idea when I shall leave for
France. I should be tickled to death if I were to
get an order about the time I leave here but
anyway there will be no such luck. My name
has been placed on a billeting detail and I
shall probably be sent over ahead of the di-
vision in order to help make arrangements for
the troops. In view of recent developments I think
there is no question but that they will send the
divisions over as rapidly as possible.

A few days ago I had a letter from Mr. Alwood.
He says that within the next year or two there
will be one or two volumes published on the sub-
ject of the fur trade and he thinks I ought to
get into the field at once with my thesis. He

Dorothy says for me to tell you "hello."
She will probably be at home on
Saturday and Sunday. The school
begins again on Monday. I was
lucky indeed to be able to get off
during her vacation.

Well, let me hear from you
soon for I am anxious to hear all
the news. I shall write again
before so very long. My address
will be Camp Cody until you hear
further.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne.

The paper that I read in Chicago last
April. If I remember correctly, I believe
you have it over at the Minn. Historical
Society. I should appreciate it very
much if you could send it to me at
Camp Cody. There is also a document
among my notes which I had copied
in Montreal last year, bearing upon
the organization of the American Fur
Company. Perhaps I may be able to
make some use of that also.

How is everything at the University
this year? I haven't had any news
from there for quite a long time. If
I had more time I should enjoy

going up to Minneapolis but it's out of the ques-
tion this time. I hope that I may be back at
the University some time but things are very un-
certain now. Of one thing I am quite sure, I shall
make a better teacher as the result of my ex-
periences in the army. (Shroth's per ran day at
this point). It is a most valuable experience in
many ways. I had been attending school most
of my life before, and so I have discovered a good
many deficiencies which I hope to be able to
correct.

I hope your father and mother are both well
and I want you to give them my best regards.
I wish I might see them both. Very often I
think of the good times I had last winter and
last summer and of all your kindness while
I lived with you. Please remember me to
Mr. Key and Mr. White and all the rest of
my friends in the history department.

Is Miss White still with you? I had a letter
from Thfts some time ago and I was surprised to
hear that he had been married. He was at
Camp Dodge when I heard from him.

Camp Cody, N.M.,

April 10, 1918.

Dear Solon:-

Work isn't so very rushing to-day, so I want to write a short letter and ask one or two questions. I intended when I wrote before to ask you whether or not the volume on the "North West Company" by Prof. Davidson, has yet appeared. If you happen to know anything about it, I should like very much to know when I might obtain a copy. I am especially interested in it just now in view of the possibility that my own thesis may be published in the near future. The matter is rather unsettled just now, however, owing to the uncertainty with regard to the publication depositing of the hundred copies in the University library. If the Arthur W. Clark Company published it, it would doubtless amount to a pretty good sized bill. Then there is also a question as to whether I have any right to sign a contract just now, in view of the fact that the manuscript becomes the property of the University if not published by

May 15, of this year. Mr. Alwood is anxious to read things along but I want to be absolutely sure of what I am doing before I sign any contract. If I can't come to some reasonable agreement with the University, I shall be inclined to let them publish it in their own "Studies"; if they so desire. I am very much interested in the project but am sorry that I can give it so little time.

I am back again at the old routine again and I was really surprised that the experience of coming back was not less disagreeable. Of course I should have enjoyed a much longer vacation but I am enjoying in my good fortune at getting any at all, inasmuch as the day after I left, an order was issued saying that no more leaves would be granted excepting in case of death. (Presumably "death" applies to the person asking for leave, or to his family). I am wondering whether you had an opportunity to talk to Dorothy while she was in St. Paul. She must have been rather tired of being stared at so much while she was at work. I believe the townspeople were much more

interested in her than they were in me. I made a
speech before a women's club to which my mother belongs,
while I was at home. I only hope I didn't tell them
anything that wasn't true. It is such a temptation to
tell people more than you know, especially when
they are so anxious to hear it.

I saw Conger in Galveston and he said he was going
(St. Paul)
to ~~Minnesota~~ next month to attend the meeting of the
Mississippi Valley Historical Association. I should
give a great deal to be there myself and help you ded-
icate your new building. It seems to me that you
are to be congratulated upon the success of your work since
you have been in Minnesota. I am inclined to envy
you sometimes. It is certainly a great satisfaction
to be engaged in work in which one is really interested, and
amid such congenial surroundings.

But I must close for this time. Please let me
hear from you when you have a little leisure.

Very sincerely,

W. A. S.

May 18, 1918

Lieutenant Wayne E. Stevens
Division Headquarters
Camp Cody, Deming N. M.

Dear Wayne:-

I am sorry to have neglected for so long the matters about which you wrote me on April 3 and April 10, but the arrangements for the M. V. N. A. meeting and the dedication have taken so much time that I have had to neglect everything else. I sincerely hope that the delay has not been of serious inconvenience to you.

I have just been through the notes and other material which you left here and have found the Montreal document, but do not find a copy of the paper which you read in Chicago last April. I am not sure from your letter whether it is this paper which you wish me to send on or the copy of the thesis itself which you left here. If you do want the thesis, let me know and I will get it off to you at once. If you think that by any chance the paper is among the things which you left at the house, I will be glad to search for it there. Possibly you sent it on to Professor Alvord. *sent*

You doubtless received a copy of the program of the M. V. N. A. Meeting and our dedication ceremonies. We had a strenuous time, but everything ran very smoothly. None of the Illinois people came up, but we had a very good attendance, numbering about forty from outside the Twin Cities.

We are going to have quite a number of additions to our staff for extra work during the summer, most of them being people whom you know. The list includes Alice Felt and her sister, Florence, and Miss Verna Cooley, whom I suppose you know at Knox. Dorothy wrote me not long ago that she would like to work here during the summer, and if she is still of that mind, I can arrange for it. I saw her for just a few minutes on Saturday, but ~~that was just about the time I was putting the finishing touches on my address, and did not have a chance to talk with her.~~

Let me hear from you whenever you can find the time to write and I will be more prompt in replying hereafter.

Sincerely yours

✓

June 12, 1918

Lieutenant Wayne E. Stevens
Division Headquarters
Camp Cody, Deming, N. M.

Dear Wayne:-

I am now getting the material in shape for the M. V. H. A. Proceedings for 1916-17, and I wonder if you would like to have your paper on "Fur Trading Companies in the Northwest, 1763-1816" included therein. If so, I wish you would get it into my hands as soon as possible. If you have other plans for its publication, I would like to know them, as I want to print by title all papers not actually included in the Proceedings, together with information about where they have been or are to be published.

On the whole it seems to me that it would be well for you to have this paper published now even though you may be unable to revise it as thoroughly as you would like to do.

It is a long time since I have had a letter from you. I learned indirectly that you received my last letter and the transcript which you requested. I hope you will let hear from you with reference to your paper, either directly or indirectly in the near future.

Sincerely yours

WAR DEPARTMENT.
Headquarters, 34th Division.

Refer to File No

From :

To :

Subject :

Camp Cody, W.M.,

September 15, 1918.

Dear Solomon:-

I hope you will pardon my using this official paper but at the present time I have nothing else that will at all fill the bill. You will not, however, that I am not using the official form. I certainly didn't intend to be so slow in writing this time but my good intentions frequently come to naught. I suppose your vacation trip is ended by now. You must have enjoyed it very much. I shouldn't mind a trip of that sort myself.

The 34th Division has been gone from here almost a month now. The work of our department had been reorganized so that when it came time to go, there was no place for me on the tables of organization so I didn't get to go. I have been assigned to the position of camp intelligence officer, in that capacity I am seeing just now. I like this work infinitely better than what I was doing before and if I am to be sent abroad as an intelligence officer I

shall feel reconciled to the delay. There is to be a new division organized here very soon, the 97th. I don't know from what part of the country the men will be drawn. Things are very dull about here just now and I am getting a little rest, now, in fact. I have had since coming down here.

On Friday afternoon I went out to the mountains on a picnic. There were eight of us altogether. The party having been arranged by one of the British officers stationed here. There were four girls in the crowd. It was a rather hilarious affair for one of my staid disposition but I endeavored to be as uncircumpect as possible. In the evening we came back and attended a dance at the new Red Cross house. It was the first dance I had attended for over a year I guess. We had a pretty good time and I believe I shall have to try it again some time.

I suppose you know that Dorothy is teaching in Stillwater this winter. I had rather hoped she would stay with you in the historical society and hinted a number of times but she thought she had not better resign the other position. But she isn't far from home and I believe she will be less homesick than she was last winter.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
Headquarters, 34th Division.

Refer to File No

From :

To :

Subject :

Bob, my brother, is having as hard a time as myself in getting courses. Just before his division left he was given a promotion and held out for assignment to one of the new divisions. He has been sent to Camp Lester, Michigan. I certainly wish we might be in the same camp. He had a couple of days at home last week before reporting at his new station.

What are things like around the University this year? I hear rumors of considerable changes. I hope you can find time to write and tell me all about it. I should like very much to be back for a little while and see everyone again. I wish you would remember me to Mr. White, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Key, and all the others.

Are they having any faculty dances this year? I wish I could attend one again. If I should get a leave and visit the Twin Cities would you get me an invitation? I don't

care a lot for their functions down here but life gets rather dull if one doesn't do something occasionally.

Do you ever take any long automobile trips? I often think of the ride I enjoyed with you. How does the new Sunday ruling affect Minneapolis? I should think that it would be rather difficult to observe it.

Are your father and mother both well? I wish you could remember me to both of them. Tell your mother that I am going to write to her soon.

With regard to the bulletins which I sent you, I know that the set was incomplete but I couldn't get copies of the missing numbers. If you cared for them I might locate some there somewhere and have copies made. Otherwise the file as you have it is complete, for the bulletin was discontinued upon the departure of the Division. If the new Division publishes a similar bulletin, I shall save copies for you.

As I must write to my brother now I shall close for this time. Please write when you can and tell me all the news from the University, etc. I am always more than glad to hear from any of the people in the Twin Cities.

Very sincerely,

Wayne.

SEP 23 1919

Camp Cody, W. M.,

September 20, 1918.

My dear Solon:-

I have time to write just a few lines, asking you to do me another favor, if it is not too much trouble. Wednesday, Sept. 25, is Dorothy's birthday and I wanted to send her some flowers, as I did last year. I am enclosing a check and if it will not be too much bother I shall appreciate it very much if you can attend to it. I should suggest some roses but if they should not be available just use your own judgment. Dorothy's address is 1006 South Fourth St., Stillwater, Minnesota.

This is a fine, clear, cool morning and in a little while I expect to start for Silver City by automobile, to look up a "case." Silver City is about fifty miles distant so you see it is quite a trip. I am going along with a St. Elmo, one of our British officers here. It is a good way to combine business with pleasure.

I had some pictures taken recently, at the request of the various members of my family, and others, and I shall

send one to your mother too. The folk I have been
asking me to have my picture taken for over six months but
you know how a person usually dreads the ordeal.

I suppose flowers, like other things are more expensive than
they were last year and if I haven't made the check large
enough, will you please let me know? As I have a few
things to do before leaving, I had better close. Please let me
hear from you when you have a little time.

Very sincerely,

Wayne.

P.S. The 97th Division is beginning to mobilize here now. I find
great comfort in the recent announcement of the War Department
that all men physically fit would be sent overseas. I don't
wish the prospect of another year in Cody

October 8, 1918

Lieutenant Wayne E. Stevens
Division Headquarters
Camp Cody, Deming, N. M.

Dear Wayne:-

I am forwarding to you your copy of the M. V. H. A. Proceedings for 1916-17 which contains your article. Should you want separates of this article, I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. J. L. Powers of the Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Your recent commission was carried out to the best of my ability, as you have doubtless been informed. The cost was four dollars plus thirty-five cents express, so I owe you sixty-five cents for which you will find stamps enclosed.

I am in hopes to find time to write you a real letter in the near future.

Sincerely yours

B/P

NOV 25 1918

1

Camp Cody, W. M.,

November 20, 1918.

Dear Solon:-

I am writing you in considerable haste this time but there is a matter concerning which I should like to speak to you without delay. I had a letter from Dorothy to-day in which she mentioned having seen you and in which she said you had been offered a commission in what I presume is the Historical Section of the General Staff. She also stated that you were interested in knowing whether I should like to go into that sort of work.

As a matter of fact I have been considering that very thing for the past couple of weeks and am planning to make application for transfer through military channels within the next day or two. The principal difficulty in the case of those of us who are in the service is that such applications are handled in the mechanical routine fashion of the army and it is exceedingly difficult to get before the proper persons one's qualifications for any particular line of work. I saw an announcement recently to the effect that Professor Payson had been commissioned Major in that department and I had already drafted a letter to him making

inquiry concerning the openings in that field. I met him at Cincinnati a couple of years ago though I suppose that of course it is very doubtful whether he remembers me. But I felt that if I succeeded in my aim it would have to be through some such personal correspondence for I have had plenty of experience in trying to get what I want through military channels, though of course that has to be the medium for my application.

If you can give me any information you may have which would help me I should be very grateful indeed. What I want to do is to put in my application for transfer through regular channels but at the same time have my qualifications submitted unofficially to someone in the Historical Branch who would be able to judge them for what they are worth. If you have any personal friend in that department to whom you could care to suggest my name sometime then occasion might offer, it would undoubtedly help a great deal. That is a rather bold suggestion on my part and I shan't feel the least bit hurt if you don't find it convenient to act upon it. When I make my application would you mind if I used your name as a reference?

I have been interested in the work of the Historical Branch for some months and have always felt a desire to get into that

work but so long as there was any possibility of my services being used in any other capacity I preferred to let the matter rest. But that objection no longer holds and, moreover, I am confronted with the immediate necessity of finding some remunerative occupation. I believe that my historical training, together with my eighteen months in the army would qualify me for the task of collecting material on the war. I am familiar with army organization and military records of all sorts from my work in the Adjutant General's Department but the work of the Intelligence Department has proved of even more value. I have in mind a number of studies connected with the war which I am planning to make if I ever have the opportunity. I am particularly interested in the closely connected subjects of morale and propaganda. If I ever have time I should like to work up a paper on the subject of morale and propaganda during the Civil War. But that is only one of many things of that sort which have occurred to me.

If you hear of any openings in any other field, academic or otherwise, will you let me know? I have been intending for some little time to inquire with reference to the situation at the U. of Minnesota. I am not the least bit uneasy

about the future though of course I shall be glad when I have something definite ahead.

I hope you all escaped the influenza. I got out of the hospital about two weeks ago after an eight days' siege. I am still quite a little below par and am afraid it will be several days yet before I am fully recovered from the effects of it. I wasn't very sick but it certainly is not a disease to be trifled with. Please remember me especially to your father and mother. I have been intending to write to you mother for a long time but one thing after another has interfered. Just now we are fairly busy in the office.

Well, any information you can give me concerning the Historical Branch of the General Staff will be greatly appreciated. At present I know absolutely nothing of its organization or the opportunities therein. If I were to secure a transfer, not the least enjoyable prospect would be the possibility of seeing something of you in Washington.

Most sincerely,

W. Agnes.

November 25, 1918

Lieutenant Wayne E. Stevens
Division Headquarters
Camp Cody, Deming
New Mexico

Dear Wayne:-

It is curious that your letter of November 20 should have reached me in the same mail with a letter from Paxson stating definitely what I had already anticipated; that is that there is no prospect of my receiving the commission. There was so much delay and red tape that final action had not been taken at the time of the signing of the armistice and as you doubtless know, that resulted in the clamping of the lid down on the issuance of commissions.

The last arrangement before the armistice was to the effect that I was to be inducted as a private and sent to Camp Grant to await my commission. I am decidedly glad that the armistice did not come a week or two later, as that would probably have meant a sojourn at Camp Grant doing K. P. duty, etc., and then discharge. I saw a notice in the paper recently to the effect that all men who had been inducted into the service with a view to being commissioned were to be discharged without their commissions.

I should have written you about this matter some time ago, but every day it seemed as if the thing would be settled in a day or two and then I could write something definite, so I kept putting it off. The commission which I was to have had was that of captain and the work would have been in connection with the compilation of an inventory of war archives. As soon as I heard about this, I thought that I would like to get you into the same work sooner or later, if possible, but I was not, of course, in a position to make any move in that connection until the situation with reference to myself was cleared up.

In the letter which I received from Paxson this morning, he states that "the signing of the Armistice hit me very heavily, since it cancelled the issuance of several other commissions upon which I had been working for several weeks and we expect to have to proceed now by means of transfers of officers who are already in the service and are able to do our work."

W. E. S. 11/25/18--3

That is just about what I had anticipated would be the procedure, and as there are probably few men in the army as well trained as are you for this work, it seems to me that you ought to stand a very good chance of securing the transfer. I shall write to Paxson about you at once and do everything I can to assist you.

So far as I am personally concerned, I have very little regret at the outcome. The move would have meant a serious financial sacrifice, but I was willing to stand that for the sake of the experience and especially for the opportunity of being more definitely in government service during the war.

With reference to the possibilities of the situation here, there is very little that I can say at present. Everything will be up in the air, of course, until we know definitely whether or not Ford and Notestein are going to return, and also until after the session of the legislature and we know what we are to have in the way of appropriations.

Did I write you that we have a new associate professor in the Department, N. S. B. Gras, whose field is economic history and who came this fall from Clark University? Two of the new men who were secured last year, Shippee and Tyler, are still with us and are very good men. Cecil Shirk is over in France, but Paul Smith is doing graduate work in the University and occupies your former room at the house.

I am expecting to go to Chicago in a week or two for a conference with the directors of historical work in the Northwest states, and one of the suggestions which we are to consider will be that of cooperation in the collection of material for war history. There is a possibility that Quaife may go abroad to see what he can do over there. We have recently established the Minnesota War Records Commission of which I am chairman, and of which Holbrook, our field agent, is director.

I am sorry that you had to entertain the "flu". There has been plenty of it in the Twin Cities, but so far I have managed to escape. Let me hear from you more frequently.

Cordially yours

B/P

pleasant to see anyone about the University
again. Bob, my brother, is planning to
be at home on leave at the same time I
am, and as I haven't seen him for
considerably more than a year, I am
looking forward to a visit. It was pro-
mised just before his division left for
France and assigned to ~~the~~ a new division
at Camp Custer, Michigan, where he
is now. So like me he didn't get to
go across and like me, he is consider-
ably disappointed.

I saw Gladys Blakey yesterday
in a store down town. She is looking

Stevens

1624-19th St.,

Washington, D.C.

December 18, 1916.

My dear Solon:-

Now that I am fairly well settled I am
beginning to catch up on my arrears of corre-
spondence again. About a week after I wrote
my last letter I received a wire from Washington
directing me to report to the War College for
duty. I wrote a letter to Major Pearson about
the time I wrote to you and they certainly
acted quickly. I am certainly very grateful
for the information which I got through you
of what was being done for when I knew
that they were looking for men I don't re-
member. If I had waited I might have been

discharged or transferred elsewhere and it would have been too late.

I am working in the Economic Mobilization Branch of the Historical Branch, under Major Pappas's direction. At the present time I am investigating the subject of transportation. It is different work from any that I have ever done and for that reason I believe that it will prove very interesting.

By the way, are you planning to be in Cleveland next week? I have asked for a leave and if I get it, will attend the meeting of the American Historical Association, where I hope I shall see you. Incidentally, I hope to carry on a little personal propaganda while there in the interest of a job at some future place and date. I hope it is not for nothing that I have studied German propaganda methods while in the intelligence department. My present work may not last longer than next August or September and I should like very much to line up something before then.

If they grant me all the leave I asked for (14 days) I shall go on home from Cleveland and then perhaps go to St. Paul for a week end. I can travel for a cent a mile now and I intend to make the most of it while it lasts. If I do succeed, it will be very

fine and is apparently enjoying life immensely. She invited me to her home for Christmas dinner and I accepted with alacrity.

I must close now but I am hoping to see you soon, when I shall be able to tell you a good deal more than I can hope to write.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your father and mother all a very merry Christmas.

Most sincerely,
W. Agnes.

✓

February 21, 1919

Lieut. Wayne E. Stevens
1824 - 19 St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Wayne:-

Kellar who is chairman of the program committee for the M. V. H. A. meeting at St. Louis, May 8-10, has asked me to serve on his committee.

Will it be possible for you to read a paper at this meeting? I have just written to Paxson asking if he or Weeks or some one else in the Historical Branch could attend the meeting and tell about the work and plans of the Branch. Doubtless you could do this if no one else is available, but I think perhaps it would be better for you to prepare a paper on some other subject; something perhaps which would connect itself up with your work in Washington or at Camp Cody.

Everybody is interested in the history of the war now and a paper dealing with some phase of that subject by one who knows something about historical method would be very desirable.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Har Ruddy Bill

MAR 7 1919

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1919.

Dear Sir:-

Since I received your letter I have been considering the matter which you mentioned. Needless to say, I should like very much to read a paper at the St. Louis meeting but in view of the uncertainty of my situation, I don't see how I could undertake definitely to do so. In the first place, I should be obliged to obtain a leave from the Adjutant General when the time came and in view of the fact that I just had a leave, I consider it very doubtful whether another of any length could be approved. It is very likely that I shall find it necessary a little later to take a trip or two for the purpose of obtaining a position for next year and I believe that I ought to save any leave which I may have coming for such an emergency. I did think of writing a paper and sending it to be read. As a matter of fact, my military career has been rather devoid of features of interest and I am afraid it would be exceedingly difficult to prepare anything which would be effective if presented by someone else. I mentioned the matter to Major Paxson in the hope that

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

in case he weren't going he might offer to let me go but he didn't rise to the occasion. I am very sorry not to be able to give a more favorable answer and I appreciate your asking me, but in view of the distance and everything I don't see how I can go. If I might write a paper of some sort which would be satisfactory, I should be very glad to help out in that way.

I haven't anything very definite in view with reference to a position for next year as yet. I have had some correspondence on the subject and hope that something may develop soon. Mr. Alford wrote that he hoped to be able to offer me a job in connection with the gathering of material on the history of Illinois' participation in the war. At one time he mentioned the possibility that the Missouri Historical Society might decide to extend its activities and I am looking into the matter. Do you know anything as to the situation there? I should like very much to get something of that sort.

Things have been moving here during the past few days. I went down to the Capitol last night but couldn't even get within sight of the gallery doors. The Senate

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

are apparently taking the bit in their teeth. I am anxious to hear what they do before noon to-day.

Work here goes along as usual. I don't know definitely how long I shall remain but there is always the possibility of being let out at any time. It is fine so long as it lasts but is uncertain.

Please let me hear from you whenever you have time to write. You are probably busy these days and I envy you your close proximity to the center of your interests.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne.

March 12, 1919

Lieut. Wayne E. Stevens
1628 S. 19 St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Wayne:-

I received your letter of March 4 and consider your excuses quite valid.

Paxson has not replied to my letter, so I take it that he does not intend to accept either.

I was somewhat surprised and very much interested to know that you are considering historical society work or something of that sort for next year. I had taken it for granted that you would very much prefer a teaching position. So far as the Missouri Historical Society place is concerned, I would advise you not to bank very much on that. Alvord used to dangle that before my eyes as long ago as when I was at Illinois, but nothing ever developed.

On the other hand, there will almost certainly be a big demand for competent people to work on the history of the various states in the war. If our plans go through here, it is quite likely that we could offer you as good a position as you would get at Illinois, and I take it that you would prefer St. Paul to Urbana as a place of residence. At any rate, I trust that you will keep me informed of developments and give us a chance to make you an offer in case something definite comes up elsewhere.

It will doubtless be a month or six weeks before the legislature will act on our proposition, but as soon as it does act, things will begin to move rapidly. Would you have any difficulty about getting a release in case you should have a definite offer of something likely to be more permanent?

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAR 22 1919

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1919.

Dear Solomon:-

Your letter of March 12 came a few days ago and shortly after, I received your Bulletin No. 2, describing your project for the preservation of war material. It is a very interesting plan which you have worked out and one of considerable magnitude, too.

With reference to the suggestion which your letter contained, I would, as a matter of fact, prefer a teaching position if I could locate something that seemed worth while. But nothing definite has turned up as yet and until I am finally settled, I shall consider any other proposition that presents itself on its merits.

Since I wrote you last I have had a second letter from Mr. Alford, intimating that they were going to do something very shortly and asking me for my terms. The letter

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came only a couple of days ago and I haven't replied yet. I should prefer that they make an offer for in the best analysis it will probably resolve itself into a question of what they will or can pay. I object to naming my minimum terms as a basis for negotiations, and that is what they asked for.

Of course the salary is a considerable factor but I should also take into account the probable duration of the work, its general character, and the nature of my duties in connection therewith. Other things being equal, one would naturally prefer to go where his opportunities to do a piece of work which would develop his own initiative appeared to be greater.

I don't think there will be much difficulty in my obtaining my discharge whenever I ask for it. It is altogether likely, however, that they will desire my services for five or six months yet and I shouldn't care to give up this position

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in the near future unless something really worth while offered itself. I have lost about two years or rather have been delayed about two years in the work which I had decided to make a profession and to all intents and purposes I must start over again. So I am naturally interested in getting a position which will give me as quick a start as possible.

As I said before, I am in a position where I shall consider any proposal on its merits and I should be very glad to know how your plans turn out. I should judge that Mr. Almond will have some definite proposal to make very soon but I doubt whether they will care to pay as much as I should want. Then, too, I shall want to know a little more about their general plans.

I appreciate very much your interest in me, and I shall let you know what develops. I shall of course be glad when my plans for the immediate future are settled.

Very sincerely,

Wayne.

April 2, 1919

Lieutenant Wayne E. Stevens
1624 - 19 St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Wayne:-

I think you are quite right in feeling that the Illinois people ought to make you an offer if they want your services rather than to ask you for your terms.

Everything is still up in the air here and will be probably until just before the adjournment of the legislature which occurs in about three weeks. It is possible that there may be an instructorship open at the University, but if so the salary will probably be pretty low.

Ford tells me that he has recommended you for something good in Washington. Just what I did not have a chance to find out.

I suppose you know that Davidson's book on the Northwest Company is out. (University of California Publications in History, vol. 7). I saw a notice of its publication recently and wrote to Bolton and requested a review copy which has just arrived. I have not had time to look it over as yet.

Sincerely yours

B/P