



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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January 17, 1930

Professor C. W. Alvord
438 Lincoln Hall
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Clarence:-

I am sending the enclosed letter from Powers to you for reply. I trust you have succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for the editing of the Proceedings. As I have already told you, I could not possibly undertake it this year. The index for volume 9 is still awaiting my revision, but I hope to get at it very soon. ✓

From information brought back from Cleveland by some of our University men, I gather that Schafer of Oregon is likely to be the new superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The dope seems to be that there is no possible chance of the appointment going to you. Apparently the principal obstacles are opinions as to the state of your health, and a feeling that you "would not fit in." Just why the latter, I am sure I don't know, except that it seems to me it would be very difficult for anyone to fit in under the existing circumstances.

We had an exceptionally good annual meeting this year, with an audience of about 225 which packed out auditorium. Fish gave the annual address on "American Democracy, its Origins and Character." It was a brilliant paper prepared by him for the University of London, but not delivered there because he was called home by the illness of his mother. The paper will be published in our Bulletin.

Crofts tells me that you and Cole are going to write a college history of the United States for him. Go to it. It will certainly be a good one.

By the way, I received a letter recently from Elizabeth Murray Shepherd which quite took me off my feet. I believe I will send you a verbatim copy of it. The enclosures were quite as atrocious as the letter with the exception of a part of one entitled "Prospectus and Estimate" which purports to have been written by you. I heard a long time ago that you were getting mixed up in something of this sort which was to be financed by Henry Ford, but I had no idea of the character of the project until I received this letter and enclosures. I can hardly believe that your connection with this enterprise will add to your reputation among scholars. ✓

B/P

Cordially yours

JAN 24 1920

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

January 21, 1920.

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

My dear Mr. Buck:

Don't you worry about Mrs. Shepherd. She came down with her "big project" and I estimated that if there were \$500,000 it could be done and I have played with her since. *I should like to spend five hundred thousand.* She is still seeking the money. Personally, I think she is half crazy. If she begins to quote me too much I shall have to call her down.

The Proceedings will be taken care of in this office. Mrs. Tilton and Miss Wheelhouse can do the work. How much did the editorial work on the last volume of the Proceedings cost?

Sincerely yours,

CW Alvord

CWA: MJ

January 31, 1930

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Enclosed you will find a review of Haynes's Weaver for the M. V. H. R. I hope you will find it satisfactory. ✓

You will observe that the initials signed to it are not mine. The explanation is that I saw no prospect of getting time to do this myself and so took the liberty of having it done by a competent person. I did contribute one or two suggestions, however.

On the whole, I think it just as well that the Iowa people should not know that I had anything to do with this review. Shambaugh is, as you know, somewhat inclined to resent criticism.

Sincerely yours

B/P

January 28, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
436 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Thinking that you may not be fully cognizant of the way in which Mrs. Shepherd is using your name, I have taken the liberty of withholding one of her enclosures to me and I am forwarding it to you herewith. After you have looked it over, please send it on to her at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston.

You will note that all except the first three lines of page 12 and all of page 13 are presented as if written by you. I feel pretty sure, however, that you did not write the next to the last paragraph at least, for I can't believe that you would refer to "the American Historical Society". There is, of course, nothing objectionable in this section, but there certainly is matter in the rest of the prospectus which is decidedly objectionable, and I still think that the use of your name in this connection is unfortunate. That is your own lookout, however, and none of my business, I suppose, so I will say nothing more about it.

I am afraid I cannot tell you how much the editorial work on the Proceedings cost, as I kept no record of it. My guess is that it was somewhere around forty dollars, but Mrs. Paine can doubtless give you the exact figures. You remember that volume 9 is to be closed with the index now in preparation so that the next Proceedings should begin a new volume.

Sincerely yours

B/P

FEB 1 1920

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

January 30, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

I am very much obliged to you for sending me Mrs. Shepherd's prospectus. You are absolutely right. I know nothing about it and did not know she had gone so far with the program. It is a year and a half since I had any conversation with her. I am sending the prospectus back to her with the demand that she erase my name. I wish to thank you for troubling yourself with the matter.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

P. S. I am sending you a copy of the letter I have written to Mrs. Shepherd.

C.W.A.

CWA: MJ

January 30, 1920.

Mrs. Elizabeth Murray Shepherd,
Copley Plaza Hotel,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Mrs. Shepherd:

I was greatly surprised to receive from my friend, Dr. Buck, the prospectus of the woman's history of the world, as I had no idea that you were getting out in printed form any such prospectus without consulting me, and I am greatly surprised that my name should have been used in the way it has without due authority.

There are several things that I object to in it. I have never agreed to serve as assistant editor to the work. The only way in which I would consent to have any connection with the work would be that the complete editorial control should be placed in my hands. This means the selection of all people that have anything to do with the writing. Instead of that you speak as if one volume was well along towards publication.

The prospectus and estimate which has been abridged from my report has several mistakes, one of which is the use of the title, "American Historical Society", which could not possibly have come from me.

All things being considered, I wish that you would rewrite this prospectus and leave my name out entirely.

Sincerely yours,

CWA: MJ

IFEB 23 1920

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

February 20, 1920.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,

Minnesota Historical Society,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Buck:

The enclosed manuscript has been submitted to the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. Mr. Alvord will be greatly obliged if you will look it over and write ^{him} your opinion as to its suitability for publication.

Sincerely yours,

Leila W. Tilton

LWT:MJ

February 27, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Herewith I am returning Murphy's manuscript on "The Farmers' Alliance in Dakota, 1887-1890." ✓

I am in some doubt as to what to recommend. It contains some interesting material and is somewhat more than a compilation in that there is some discussion of cause and significance, but the range of sources consulted is decidedly narrow, including apparently only the files of two agricultural papers and the legislative journals. The conclusion, moreover, is somewhat abrupt. The writer jumps from the Farmers' Alliance to the Non Partisan League without any intimation that the Farmers' Alliance developed into the Populist movement of the nineties.

It seems to me that the subject is one on which a much better paper might be written and consequently I cannot be very enthusiastic about this one.

Sincerely yours

B/P

March 29, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

I am very glad to know about Miss Wheelhouse and will do nothing about the position until I hear from you further. I think we could make out plans fit in with the arrangement which you suggest.

In writing recently to Mr. Robert Glasgow, who has brought out the Chronicles of America Series for the Yale University Press, he said that I supposed a copy of my book would be sent to the M. V. H. R. for review. The following is a paragraph from his reply.

"A long time ago I sent to Mr. Clarence Alvord of The Mississippi Valley Historical Review copies of all volumes of the Chronicles that were published at that time. This was in response to a request from him for one of the volumes. I thought that he had better have them all. I have no recollection, however, that Mr. Alvord acknowledged the books in any way and I have seen no notice of them in the Review. From this I supposed that he was not interested in the books and would not care to receive any more."

I trust that you will be able to fix this up so as to get the later volumes of the set. I am writing Mr. Glasgow to the effect that some at least of the volumes have been reviewed.

Sincerely yours

B/P

April 5, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

I had hoped to hear from you before this. Write me as soon as possible as there are other candidates for our editorial position whom I may lose if I keep them dangling too long.

Sincerely yours

B/P

APR 8 1920

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

April 7, 1920

My dear Solon:

I was thinking that I ought to write Ford for a few days more. As a matter of fact I told Greene, - for Cole's sake I did it - that I wouldn't be here next year. I am waiting only to hear from the non University position I told Ford about. I expect to hear from that this week. Tell Ford; and hold open your editorial position until first of next week, if you can. If you get Miss Whelhouse you will be most fortunate

Sincerely
Clarence.

APR 13 1920



1818

1918

Illinois
Centennial Commission
Springfield, Ill.

OTTO L. SCHMIDT, CHAIRMAN
CHICAGO
JESSIE PALMER WEBER, SECRETARY
SPRINGFIELD

CENTENNIAL PUBLICATIONS
426 LINCOLN HALL
URBANA, ILLINOIS

CLARENCE W. ALVORD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ERNEST L. BOGART
ARTHUR C. COLE
JOHN M. MATHEWS
THEODORE C. PEASE
CHARLES M. THOMPSON

April 12, 1920

My dear Solon:

Have written Ford today that I'll accept position at Minnesota, so you may write Miss Mary E. Wheelhouse.

I am mighty pleased at the prospect of being with you next year. Place a nice new desk in a sunshiny corner of your grand building for me. Keep an eye out for a flat.

Sincerely yours

Clarence

April 14, 1930

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Needless to say I am delighted with your letter of April 12. We will try to make you comfortable here and I shall do my best to find an apartment for you. That will not be very easy, however, as the housing problem is a rather serious one. Let me know how large an apartment you want and whether or not you would consider a house in case a satisfactory apartment cannot be found.

What courses do you want to give next year? If we can work out your program right away, we can probably get it into the Bulletin. It is now in the hands of the printer, but additions can doubtless be made in proof. As you know, we now have our year divided into three terms or quarters, instead of two semesters, and most of the introductory courses are given five times a week for two terms. The senior college courses meet, as a rule, three times a week, with the exception of our so-called intensive courses which are practically proseminars and meet, as a rule, twice a week for two periods each time and carry five hours credit.

The general course in American history, which covers the period from the Revolution to date, begins in the fall and continues through the winter term, starting again in the spring term. The consequence is that in the fall we have to give both halves of the course. If you could take the lectures in the beginning course next fall, leaving Shippee to give those in the other, it would be a convenience to the department and would, I think, be desirable from the standpoint of getting you into touch with the students. The lectures are given three times a week and the class meets in sections for discussion twice a week. It would probably not be necessary for you to take any other sections unless you wanted to.

Our course in the history of the west is given this year and alternates with my history of Minnesota, which is to be given next year. Notestein has been giving a course in recent English history and a course on the Stuart period. Would it be feasible for you to give a course on some phase of English history in the eighteenth century?

C. W. A. 4/14/20--2

Shippee, who is the secretary of the department, and more familiar with these matters than I, will probably write you more fully about that and will send you a copy of our program for next year.

Ford is in Chicago working on his encyclopedia, but your letter will doubtless be forwarded to him. His address there is 58 East Washington St., care F. E. Compton & Co. He expects to be back every two or three weeks during the spring to look after things here.

I am writing to Miss Wheelhouse at once to offer her the appointment on the terms which you suggested, and I trust that you will see to it that she accepts.

Sincerely yours

B/P

April 15, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

In the letter which I sent to you yesterday, there was an error which escaped my attention until I was reading a part of the carbon to Shippee over the telephone. In the last sentence of the next to the last paragraph on the first page occur the words "to take any other sections." This should read "to take any of the sections."

I saw or talked with several of the members of the department last night and they are all delighted that you are coming. Ford's secretary showed your letter to him to Mr. White who is acting chairman of the department in Ford's absence, and White took the matter up at once with the powers that be in order to get a prompt ratification. Doubtless you will hear from him shortly.

Presumably you will see in the papers that Coffman has been elected president of the University of Minnesota. The general feeling seems to be that the regents might have done a whole lot worse. I think that on the whole, the faculty is better satisfied than it was when Burton was elected, although its opinion of Burton rose very considerably.

Krey has been away on his sabbatical since Christmas, in Texas, in Washington, and at Princeton. He is now at Princeton but expects to go across the water within a few weeks. He will be back here in the fall. Some time ago I wrote him that we had invited you to come to Minnesota and this morning I am in receipt of a letter from him in which he writes as follows:

"Glad to hear that you invited Alvord and I hope that he will accept. Assure him that the climate is more salubrious than at Urbana--more like New England. The change will not only be beneficial to him but to us as well. Tell him that for me."

I am already looking into the matter of an apartment for you, but cannot make much progress until I know more about what you want, what you are willing to pay and when you want to take possession. The Tylers have been searching all over southeast Minneapolis this spring for a larger

C. W. A. 4/15/20--3

apartment for next year without finding anything satisfactory which they thought they could afford. From them I learn of a first class six room apartment which may be available at seventy-five dollars. Five room apartments are the most plentiful and can be had for about fifty dollars, but I presume that you would want at least six rooms.

Sincerely yours

B/P

April 19, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

My dear Clarence:-

Can you send me a copy of
the contract or specifications which you
used for the volumes of the Centennial History?
I am working on the specifications for Dr.
Folwell's history of Minnesota and think that
a copy of this contract or specifications would
be useful.

Sincerely yours

B/P

APR 21 1920

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416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

April 19, 1920

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

My dear Solon:

It seems to me that you had better look out for a six room apartment within pleasant walking distance of the University. In case you cannot find an apartment, we would take a house, but that is second choice, and it might be possible that we would buy a house, but that is third choice.

If you need any help in the search, you may call upon my nephew, Jack Sherman. I suppose that he is in the department of economics or thereabouts. He is a shark on efficiency. I haven't written to Jack because I do not wish to interfere with your plans and fear crossed wires, but if you would like to have me suggest that he look around I will do so. On second thought, I believe I will write him anyway and tell him to call you up since you are in charge of the whole business.

I have talked over the situation with Miss Wheelhouse very carefully and I think that for the present her proposal to give full time to you is the

Dr. Solon J. Buck - 2

April 19, 1920.

best. She can divide the work on the Mississippi Valley Historical Review with someone else, possibly her sister. If this does not work out, we can easily make an adjustment later.

I wish to thank you for the trouble you have taken and are going to take in looking up the apartment. I shall want to occupy it the first of September or thereabouts.

I just received a letter from Shippee in regard to courses, but haven't had time to study the outline that he has sent. However, I am going to do my very best to help the department and whatever seems to be the best you can plan upon. Of course I shall be very glad to help out in the introductory course. I should be extremely interested in giving a course on 18th century England, or possibly better on the development of the British Empire in the 18th century, and believe that such a course would benefit me as well as the University. Besides the above, I should think an intensive course for advanced undergraduates and graduates on my particular field of the west would be the best thing. I should also desire to give a seminar in graduates. Probably I can figure out hours, etc., from Shippee's and your statements, but if you have a chance, I wish you would talk over the above statement with Shippee and give me an estimate of hours, etc.

Dr. Solon J. Buck - 3

April 19, 1920.

I just reread your last letter. I should think that my proposed history of the west should belong to what you call intensive courses.

Sincerely yours,

C W Alvord

P. S. I have just been looking over the outline of courses given in the University. I notice that White's course 121w--122s might conflict with the history of the west that I had in mind, although not necessarily. I also notice that there is no intensive course on the early years under the constitution. I could supply this deficiency if such a course is wanted. The above is my first reaction to looking over the list of courses. I think that as the time is short before printing, you had better talk this over with Shippee and make a definite suggestion as to courses.

CWA: MJ

April 20, 1920

Prof. C. W. Alvord
436 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

I wrote you the other day for a copy of the specifications for the Centennial History. I want them for one thing in order to find out what type is used in the volumes, particularly in the footnotes. It looks to me like seven point on an eight point base.

I am enclosing herewith a tentative draft of the specifications for the first volume of Dr. Fellwell's book. I will appreciate it very much if you will look this over and give me the benefit of any suggestions which may occur to you. I am very anxious that this volume should be a creditable one in appearance and workmanship.

Can you tell me who printed the Centennial History and whether or not you considered the work satisfactory? I might give them a chance to bid on our volume. Also I wish you would tell me something about the procedure and cost of having plates made. Ought they to go into this contract or to be handled separately?

I received Miss Wheelhouse's letter this morning and will be glad to appoint her for the full time position at fourteen hundred.

I understand your appointment will be confirmed as soon as Coffman satisfies himself that you are not an invalid.

I received a letter this morning from Schafer in reply to one which I wrote to Quaife, so it appears that he has taken charge at Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours

B/P

APR 26 1920

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416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

April 21, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

The final contract with A. C. McClurg Company for the printing of the Centennial History, I never saw. It was arranged by the Superintendent of Printing with the publisher. The specifications that I drew up, I send you a copy of.

While I am writing I will ask a question lest I forget it later. I haven't asked you formally whether you will allow me to do my editing of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review in your magnificent building. This will mean, of course, that all the books and my correspondence concerning the Review would be sent to that address. Think this over. I can consider many reasons why such a course would be objectionable, and I want you to be perfectly frank.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence

CWA: MJ

PS Will answer your second letter in regard to the same subject later

~~Out of State~~

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

April 23, 1920

My dear Solon:

Is the gossip about my poor health again to play havoc with my career. It is preposterous. In the last three years I have lost only three days work on account of ill health. I have had in that time only one cold which I threw off easily.

There has been a mental depression due to my belief that I have been treated unjustly here. Were it not for that, I should be stronger than I am now. Dr Schmidt can tell about my health and he will say I am well and will live many years. If Coffman is not convinced, persuade

him to see me. I feel sure that a conversation with me will remove his objection.

Let me know immediately when all obstacles are removed.

Sincerely yours

Clarence

April 24, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

My dear Clarence:-

Doubtless you have seen Coffman by this time. He has been away all this week and I understand that he was expecting to see you. He is to be back here Monday, and I trust that final action will be taken immediately.

When the suggestion of your appointment was first made in the department, the question of your health was raised and I told Ford at once to consult Dr. Schmidt. He endeavored to do so the next time he was in Chicago but Dr. Schmidt was either sick or out of town so that he was unable to see him. He did see Ward, however, and was convinced. Upon receipt of your telegram I communicated the contents of it to Ford at once, thinking that he might possibly see Coffman during the trip. I understand that he expects to be back here on Wednesday for some meeting.

I am distinctly provoked at the way this thing has been handled, but feel confident that it will come out all right in the end. I will tell you more about it when I see you at Greencastle.

I had a talk with Mr. Sherman the other day and it looks as if the apartment question will be solved very easily. It seems that he does not expect to be here next year and probably can arrange for you to take his apartment which has six rooms. The rent will be fifty dollars. It is in an apartment building which was erected in 1915 and is about seven or eight blocks from the campus. The first year we were here we lived in an apartment next door to this one and owned by the same man. I think you will find it as satisfactory as anything available. There is no fire place and the rooms are not very large, but it is in a pleasant neighborhood and the building is a good one.

Shippee and I have worked out the following description of your courses. I have used letters instead of numbers because I do not know just what numbers may be available.

History A. The British Empire in the Eighteenth Century. A study of Imperial Politics, the development of British Colonies, and the American Revolution. Prerequisite, 15 credits in the social sciences, including 10 in history. 9 credits.

C. W. A. 4/24/20--3

History B. Selected Topics in American Colonial History. Prerequisite, 20 credits in the social sciences, including History 5-6 or History A. 5 credits.

History A will be a general lecture course, running throughout the year, and History B will be an intensive course, in which you would have only seniors and graduate students. These courses are usually given twice a week for two periods each time, but carry five credits. We have placed this course in the winter term as you would be relieved of the work on the introductory course in that term. The idea is that you would give History 5, the first half of the introductory course in the fall term, while Shippee would be giving History 6 for those students who are taking History 5 now; then Shippee would carry your students on with History 6 in the winter term and you would repeat History 5 in the spring. This is a five hour course, with lectures three times a week and section meetings twice a week.

As for the seminar, we are planning to put your name down with those of Shippee, Stephenson, and myself for the "Seminar in American History" running throughout the year, then we can divide the thing up as seems best when we find out how many graduate students we will have.

If you have any changes to suggest, send them to Shippee at once and he will embody them if it is not too late. He is expecting proof on the Bulletin most any day. Under the above arrangement your schedule will be as follows:

Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
History 5 - 3 hours	History B - 4 hours	History 5 - 3 hours
History A - 3 hours	History A - 3 hours	History A - 3 hours
<i>Summer</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>

White's course, 131W-133S, will not conflict with yours as it does not go beyond the seventeenth century. In fact yours will be a very desirable continuation to his.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Teleg. Apr. 26, 1920

Prof. G. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Ill.

Burton wired Coffman to see you
while away but he ^{retained without doing so.} says he thought it
unnecessary and is satisfied with department
action. Ford will be here Wednesday.
Expect final action there. ^{White says him}
today and thinks there will be no
further difficulty.

April 29, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
436 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

My dear Mr. Alvord:-

Through an error the
wrong statement from Dr. Mayness was sent
to you. You received the one which should
have gone to Indiana. I am enclosing the
correct statement and trust that this error
will not have inconvenienced you.

Very truly yours

Secretary to the superintendent

Alvord

May 5, 1920

Professor Stewart Pratt Sherman
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sherman:-

You will doubtless be shocked to learn that the executive committee of the Board of Regents has refused to give Alvord the appointment on the ground that the state of his health is unsatisfactory. This result is due to two things: first, the failure of Ford to recognize the necessity of meeting that objection fully; and secondly, to a letter from Dr. Schmidt which, probably contrary to Ford's intentions, was read to the Regents by the president. While this letter stated that Alvord is now well, it devoted so much space to a discussion of his sickness of a few years ago that the Regents got quite the wrong impression. The president, moreover, seems to have been dissatisfied with Ford's handling of the matter and to have been lukewarm about it himself. As you can readily imagine the result is an intolerable situation. Unless the action can be reversed, a great wrong will have been done to Alvord, to say nothing of the fact that the University of Minnesota and our department will be complete disgraced, as it ought to be.

Unfortunately Ford is in Chicago, but the department has asked him to return as soon as possible to take hold of this matter and an attempt will be made to reverse the decision. Without waiting for Ford to return, I am starting out to collect all available evidence on the state of Alvord's health. I wish, therefore, that you would write a letter stating fully and emphatically your opinion of the condition of Alvord's health at present and of his prospects for continued health and activity. This letter might well be addressed "To whom it may concern" but it should be sent to me and at your earliest convenience. Also I trust that you will let no inkling of this get to Alvord unless he hears of it first in some other way. I do not know whether Ford has or will notify him of the action taken or not.

I am asking Ward for a similar statement and any suggestions as to others from whom statements which would be of weight could be secured would be appreciated. It seems to me that one of the strongest arguments against the supposition that Alvord has been an invalid during the past two years is the amount of work which he has accomplished during that period.

Sincerely yours

Alvord

May 5, 1920

Dr. O. L. Schmidt
5 South Wabash Ave.,
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Schmidt:-

Your letter to Ford about Alvord was presented to the executive committee of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota by President Burton in connection with the recommendation of the department of history and of the Dean of the College for Alvord's appointment to a professorship in the University.

This letter seems to have had quite a different effect upon them from what you would probably have expected. So much more space in it was devoted to his sickness a few years ago than to the statement that he is a well man now that the Regents seem to have reached the conclusion that the University would be in great danger of acquiring an invalid or one who would be likely to become an invalid very shortly and consequently they turned the proposition down.

This action was due in part, I believe to a mishandling of the matter on the part of Ford who seems to have failed to recognize the necessity of combating the impression that Alvord is an invalid and who apparently failed to go into the matter thoroughly with President Burton, with the result that the president himself was lukewarm when he presented the proposition.

As it has become pretty generally known at Urbana and elsewhere that Alvord was to come to Minnesota next year, the result of this action if it cannot be reversed will be calamitous to him. It means also the loss to Minnesota of the opportunity to secure for its faculty the greatest productive scholar in the field of American History of today. We are also very much concerned over the fact that this action by the Regents indicates a lack of confidence in the department and in the Dean of the College. Unfortunately Ford is in Chicago at present as he has been most of the time since the first of April, but we have wired him to return as soon as possible.

Now it occurs to me that you would be willing to write another letter saying little or nothing about his previous illness, but stating more fully and emphatically your

O. L. S. 5/5/30--2

conviction that he is now well and your opinion as to his prospects for future health and activity. It seems to me that the great amount of work which he has accomplished during the last two years is an indication that he is very far from being an invalid.

There is another point also upon which you, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Library, could make a statement which might be helpful. The point was made at the meeting, I understand, that if Alvord was all right, Illinois would not let him go for forty-five hundred. The answer to this, I understand, is that the greater part of his services are rendered to the Illinois State Historical Library and that his salary in that connection is fixed by legislative enactment. There was no one present at the meeting, however, who could answer this objection and a statement from you on this point would be helpful.

I feel very strongly that unless the action of the Regents can be reversed an irreparable injury will have been done to Alvord and I am naturally anxious to do everything in my power to prevent this. It might be well for you to address your letter "To whom it may concern" but it should be sent to me and at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Alvord

May 5, 1930

Professor Henry B. Ward
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ward:-

You will doubtless be shocked to learn that the executive committee of the Board of Regents has refused to give Alvord the appointment on the ground that the state of his health is unsatisfactory. This result is due to two things: first, the failure of Ford to recognize the necessity of meeting that objection fully; and secondly, to a letter from Dr. Schmidt which, probably contrary to Ford's intentions, was read to the Regents by the president. While this letter stated that Alvord is now well, it devoted so much space to a discussion of his sickness of a few years ago that the Regents got quite the wrong impression. The president, moreover, seems to have been dissatisfied with Ford's handling of the matter and to have been lukewarm about it himself. As you can readily imagine, the result is an intolerable situation. Unless the action can be reversed, a great wrong will have been done to Alvord, to say nothing of the fact that the University of Minnesota and our department will be completely disgraced as it ought to be.

Unfortunately Ford is in Chicago, but the department has asked him to return as soon as possible to take hold of this matter and an attempt will be made to reverse the decision. Without waiting for Ford to return, I am starting out to collect all available evidence on the state of Alvord's health and remembering a statement made by you last Sunday to the effect that you had put the case very mildly in talking with Ford, I am writing to ask you to write a letter stating fully and emphatically your opinion of the condition of Alvord's health at present and of his prospects for continued health and activity. This letter might well be addressed "To whom it may concern" but it should be sent to me and at your earliest convenience.

Also I trust that you will let no inkling of this get to Alvord unless he shares of it first in some other way. I do not know whether Ford has or will notify him of the action taken or not.

I am asking Sherman for a similar statement and any suggestions as to others from whom statements which would be of weight could be secured would be appreciated. It

H. B. W: 5/5/30--3

seems to me that one of the strongest arguments against the supposition that Alvord has been an invalid during the past two years is the amount of work which he has accomplished during that period.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 10 1920

2

FACULTY

HENRY BALDWIN WARD, IN CHARGE
J. STERLING KINGSLEY
FRANK SMITH
CHARLES ZELENY
VICTOR ERNEST SHELFORD
HARLEY JONES VAN CLEAVE
ROKUSABURO KUDO
GEORGE MARSH HIGGINS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

URBANA

Ward

May 7, 1920.

My dear Buck:

Your letter of May 5 is at hand. This is a very annoying occurrence, but one that will happen sometimes when a man is away because a matter is not presented in the form in which he intended it should be.

While you state that the letter should be addressed impersonally, I am convinced that that will make it far less effective, and consequently I am addressing it to you. If you think that the same facts or something similar should be sent to Ford or to anyone else, telegraph me and I will act immediately.

I shall hold the matter absolutely under the hat until I hear from you. I shall, however, consult today with Sherman, and if anything further is done it will be by virtue of our joint opinion. I will inform you fully.

Very cordially yours,

Henry B. Ward
Henry B. Ward

Mr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

University of Illinois
Department of Zoology

May 7, 1920.

Dear Mr. Buck:

The question which you ask me concerning Professor Alvord's health is one which I have already answered in person to Dean Ford, who talked the matter over with me very fully at the medical conference in Chicago early in March. There can be no possible question with regard to the situation. I speak thus positively because I am sure no one could have had a better opportunity to know than I.

Professor Alvord's brother was my classmate at Williams. I met Professor Alvord first the year when I graduated, on the occasion of his visit to the College, which he entered the following year. Naturally, when I came to Illinois, I resumed the intimate personal relations of the earlier years which had been somewhat interfered with by distance, although I had heard from the family now and then even when we were separated by half the width of the continent. I have been his intimate confidante and helper in the years since then.

He has been sorely tried by sickness. As you know, his first wife died of cancer. Some time later than that, he had a severe attack of rheumatism which necessitated a temporary suspension of work and a trip to Florida for his health. The source of the trouble was discovered and removed, and while he has suffered a slight permanent change in certain of the bones of the neck which gives him the appearance of being bent, it is not with years. It can be stated most positively that this has not impaired his general health, and has left his mental vigor entirely untouched.

He has done an enormous amount of intellectual work, and displays at present even greater keenness of mind and intellectual activity than he did ten years ago. I think it conservative to say that no man on our faculty has done more real intellectual work within that period than Professor Alvord has finished up. This which stands to his credit can be demonstrated beyond question by the submission of the documents themselves. The row of publications which stands on my library shelves is unanswerable evidence of intellectual vigor and tireless energy. The man who, judging from professor Alvord's slightly bent form, deems him to be in poor health or going downhill is really unacquainted with the facts and passing judgment on purely superficial appearances. I consider myself at least as vigorous as the average member of our faculty, and I know that Professor Alvord can do more extended and intense mental labor than I can.

While I have written very briefly and without much discussion of ~~the~~ details, I hope that this statement of the case will enable you to understand it fully. If not, I should be glad to have the privilege of outlining the case more fully. Your statement that some people had thought of Professor Alvord as an invalid during the past two years really appeared to me as a joke, and it was rather

hard to take it seriously. Let me suggest that you stand in a row the publications which he has edited within that period, and ask if such an array look like the work of a sick man or one lacking in mental vigor.

You might add to that what I know, but what may not be familiar to others at a distance. Professor Alvord has spent an immense amount of time and energy in correcting the manuscript of others published under his direction. I know that he had to rewrite in good part some of the volumes prepared by other men. I saw him at this work at least once or twice a week during the whole period. I marveled more than once that a man could work with such patience and tireless energy in checking and correcting, in revising and remaking the work of others, as well as carrying on his own studies and writing; but I fear that if I continue I may seem to be unnecessarily detailed in my statements or over-emphatic in my views. Professor Alvord is at the prime of life physically, and far younger than many men who are ten years ^{his} junior. He has, in my opinion, barring accident, a long period of productive scholarship before him.

With regards,

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) Henry B. Ward.

Mr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent,
Minnesota Historical Society.

May 7, 1920

3

Alford

Professor Selma J. Buck
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Professor Buck:

I am glad to answer your inquiry with regard to the health of Professor Alford, whom I have known pretty intimately for the last twelve years. Since my first acquaintance with him he has impressed me as one of the most persistent and productive workers on the Faculty; and I should suppose that the long row of publications written and edited by him amply proved the correctness of my impression.

Three or four years ago he had some rheumatic trouble, which I believe was traced to infection from the roots of the teeth. The teeth were removed and I think the difficulty practically disappeared within some months of the extraction.

At the present time he looks to me as young as he did twelve years ago and his health appears to be as sound and stable as if he were ten or fifteen years younger. His mind is constitutionally fresh, alert, eager, and ambitious. Its characteristic is elasticity and resilience. I should rate him now as in the fulness of his powers and easily capable of ten or fifteen years of his best work. Alford is a man of high professional seriousness. He puts the full energy of his life into history and works himself hard. But in compensation he seems to possess a really tough physique; and within the last two years, while he was working on the Central History, he has kept up ~~the~~ his stride through months of sustained application which I should be happy to be able to imitate.

Very sincerely yours
Stuart Sherman

FACULTY

HENRY BALDWIN WARD, IN CHARGE
STERLING KINGSLEY
FRANK SMITH
CHARLES ZELENY
VICTOR ERNEST SHELFORD
HARLEY JONES VAN CLEAVE
ROKUSABURO KUDO
GEORGE MARSH HIGGINS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

URBANA

May 7, 1920.

Dear Mr. Buck:

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He has done an enormous amount of intellectual work, and displays at present even greater keenness of mind and intellectual activity than he did ten years ago. I think it conservative to say that no man on our faculty

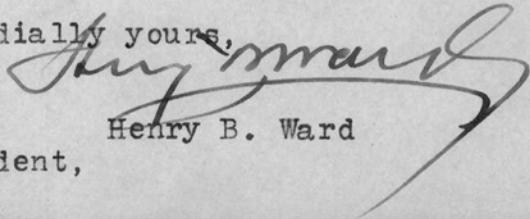
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With regards,

Very cordially yours,


Henry B. Ward

Mr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent,
Minnesota Historical Society,

MAY 12 1920

DR. O. L. SCHMIDT
MALLERS BUILDING
5 S. WABASH AVE. CHICAGO

2

Lake Geneva, Wis.

May 10'th, 1920.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,

Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society,

Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Dr. Buck:-

I hardly need say how sorry I am to hear that I inadvertently may have thwarted the advancement of Professor Alvord.

Your letter was received just an hour ago with a lot of other mail and I hasten to answer so that I may get it off at once without further delay. We are here so early without facilities of getting to town daily that the mail service is very poor. In case of another letter, please address it "care of Mrs. C. Seipp, Walworth, Wisconsin, Rural Delivery No 2" for the month of May, later the Lake Geneva mail is delivered daily.

Professor Ford called me up last Wednesday when I happened to be in town and as I was leaving next day amid a lot of work I wrote the letter very hastily, but as I had been under the impression that the question of Alvord's health was of great importance I went somewhat into detail, on account of the many rumors that had been circulated about him in every way during his sickness and even last year. I assumed that some of these had gotten to Minnesota. I did not see Prof. Ford but thought to hear significance in the health matter out of his telephone message.

Prof. Ford wrote me that the letter was just about what he wanted. Of course I take all the blame on myself although the only fault that I can find with the statement is that it was too explicit and truthful. If you have not seen it, I will send you a copy on getting to town. It was to be that and also plain without many technical words. I made a statement of his never having showed any signs of insanity. Perhaps this was the crux of the opinion. On the other hand you know what happened last summer; I feared that some rumor of this had come to your faculty.

If necessary to correct matters, I would of course see President Burton, but not before next week as I must be in Springfield this Thursday and Friday.

I wondered if any one took the pains of explaining the difficulty of Prof. Alvord's position in Urbana, serving four departments at the same time for his salary. This to me was perhaps the most active cause in his trouble.

I enclose another letter. Please answer me to Chicago as I will get my mail there till Saturday afternoon. Prof. Greene and I will be in Springfield till Friday evening - Leland Hotel.

Trusting that every thing can still be straightened out,
Yours sincerely,

O. L. Schmidt

Alvord

4

DR. O. L. SCHMIDT
MALLERS BUILDING
5 S. WABASH AVE. CHICAGO

May 10, 1920.

To whom it may concern:-

I beg the privilege of making an additional statement to my letter of last week to Professor Ford, bearing on the health of Professor Clarence W. Alvord, of Urbana, Illinois.

I was compelled to write the letter in great haste and, in my anxiety to present the condition of health in detail and with exactness, closed rather abruptly, without as I now feel laying sufficient stress on his perfect recovery for almost a year. He is now absolutely well, working as hard or rather harder than any man should, without any evidence of impairment of health, and is accomplishment-ing much.

A recurrence of his sickness is out of the question.

Having the honor of being a personal friend and also being a member of the Illinois Historical Library Commission, by which his services are in part employed, I take the liberty of referring to his present difficult and rather unsatisfactory situation. This requires the greater part of his time and is the work, I dare say, on which his reputation largely rests, but unfortunately is not properly remunerated. The salary was fixed years ago by Legislative Enactment. We could not get an increase at the last Session (in 1919) as only one or at most two salaries were permitted to be raised at that time in the State service; it may be so again at the next Session next year and so the prospects for getting him a suitable remuneration are not very good for some time to come. This, with a unified field of work, is his reason for seeking another position. It would be an advancement and hence his sincere friends wish him well with it.

I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

O. L. Schmidt

Alvord

The University of Minnesota
Minneapolis

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 13, 1920

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
Department of History.

My dear Mr. Buck:-

Let me thank you heartily for your letter of May 13th, enclosing the letter dated May 10th from Mr. O. L. Schmidt of Chicago in regard to Professor Alvord. I have read the letter with the keenest interest and satisfaction.

I am taking the liberty of transmitting it directly to Dean Johnston who will collate all the material on this subject.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Burton

MLB/C

+ 23.

May 14₁ 1920.

See File of Articles, etc
by S J B. for
blood material

Alvord

May 17, 1930

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt
Mrs. C. Seipp,
Walworth, Wisconsin
Rural Delivery No. 2

My dear Dr. Schmidt:-

You will be glad to know, I am sure, that the executive committee of the regents last Saturday night reversed its previous action and ratified Alvord's appointment.

The letter which you sent me was used in securing this action and was very helpful. We are all delighted that the matter has been satisfactorily settled. We think that we are fortunate in securing Alvord's services and also that the position will be an advantageous one for him.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Alvord

May 17, 1920

Professor Stuart P. Sherman
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sherman:-

Alvord has probably told you already of the ratification of his appointment by the executive committee of the regents last Saturday night. The letters which you and Ward sent were the most important factors in bringing about this action, and I assure you that they were very greatly appreciated.

I have written Alvord quite fully about the situation which developed and the way in which it was handled and he will probably tell you about it.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Alvord

May 17, 1920

Professor Henry B. Ward
Department of Zoology
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ward:-

Alvord has probably told you already of the ratification of his appointment by the executive committee of the regents last Saturday night. The letters which you and Sherman sent were the most important factors in bringing about this action and I assure you that they were very greatly appreciated.

I have written Alvord quite fully about the situation which developed and the way in which it was handled, and he will probably tell you about it.

Sincerely yours

B/P

May 17, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Doubtless you received Ford's telegram yesterday to the effect that the executive committee of the regents ratified your appointment on Saturday night.

I suppose you have been wondering what on earth was the matter up here. I did not write you about it before because I saw no use in giving you unnecessary worry, but I understand that Ford wrote you vaguely about it a few days ago. The facts are principally as follows: The proposed appointment came before the executive committee of the regents two weeks ago tonight and was turned down primarily because of the belief of the regents that you were an invalid. One point which I understand was made against you was that it was strange that Illinois was willing to let you go and no one present was able to answer this apparently.

This action was partly the fault of the President, partly that of Ford who apparently failed to recognize the necessity of covering the health situation thoroughly, and partly the result of a combination of circumstances. You can readily imagine that we have had a hectic time here during the last two weeks, with interviews, letters, telegrams, conferences, and department meetings galore. I wrote to Ward and Sherman asking them for letters about your health and I think you will be interested in the copies of their letters which I am enclosing herewith. Dr. Schmidt also sent me a second letter which was much more satisfactory than the one he wrote for Ford ~~and~~ which went before the regents at the first meeting. This is in the hands of the President now and I have no copy of it. ✓

The President said at first that it would be useless to try to reopen the matter but he soon began to weaken and finally when I showed him these letters from Ward and Sherman last Tuesday he intimated that he might be willing to reopen the case. Dean Johnston then asked me to collect an exhibit of your work which I did, getting together a row of books about six feet long. I also prepared a sketch of your career, the enclosed copy of which you will doubtless read with interest, and a bibliography of your writings. I haven't a copy of the bibliography on hand at present but will send you one ✓

C. W. A. 5/17/30--3

later.

Ford came up from Chicago Saturday morning. We had a department meeting in the forenoon although Ford himself was unable to be there because of another engagement, and at this meeting we formulated the following statement which was transmitted to Dean Johnston.

"The major professors of the Department of History have carefully reconsidered the matter of the proposed appointment of C. W. Alvord to a professorship of history in the University, in the light of all the evidence on the case, including the two letters from Dr. Schmidt, the letters from Alvord's colleagues at Illinois, Professors Ward and Sherman, and the data collected with reference to Alvord's professional career. They desire unanimously and positively to reaffirm their former recommendation that the appointment be made."

At noon Johnston, Ford, and I met the President in his office. Johnston put all the material collected in his hands and I explained the exhibit to him. He then said that he would do everything in his power to secure a ratification of the appointment from the executive committee of the regents which was to meet in his office that night. I had hoped to get word of the action before going to bed Saturday night, but the meeting lasted until very late and it did not seem advisable to try to find out anything until morning. Sunday morning, however, White got into touch with the President and then called me up and told me the outcome, whereupon I breathed freely for the first time since the previous action was taken.

As I understand it, the executive committee has the full power of the Board of Regents in this matter and its action is final. Doubtless you will receive formal notification from the President in the near future.

We will not go ahead and see what we can do about getting you a satisfactory place in which you can live. I called up the Sherman yesterday. Mr. Sherman was out but I told Mrs. Sherman of the ratification of the appointment. Mrs. Ford tells me that Idress wrote her that she cannot go up and down stairs. I do not know whether or not the Sherman apartment is on the ground floor.

The pictures which you sent me were duly received and will probably be used in the papers in due time. I showed

C. W. A. 5/17/20--3

them to the President and he asked me to leave them with him so that he could show them to the regents.

Copies of volume 5 of the Centennial History arrived here Friday, just in time for one of them to be included in the exhibit. Volume 4 has not yet been received, nor have the last two volumes of the Collections, Verlie's and Cole's.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 21 1920

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

URBANA

FACULTY

HENRY BALDWIN WARD, IN CHARGE
J. STERLING KINGSLEY
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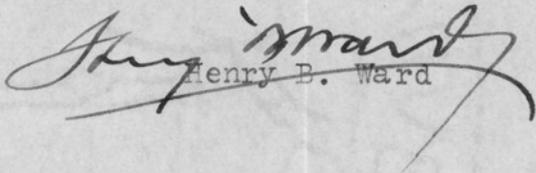
May 19, 1920

My dear Buck:

Yours of May 17 was a great delight to me, although I had heard of the telegram confirming the appointment.

When I saw our friend Alvord last evening he had not yet heard about it, and I said nothing. I shall let him open the subject. - *He did this now!*

Very cordially yours,


Henry B. Ward

Doctor Solon J. Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

MAY 24 1920

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

May 20, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

Thanks very much for the effort that you have made to secure the appointment. I had heard something about the difficulties, but only a little. However, I had great confidence in you and Ford and you certainly have shown yourself a genius. I am very much pleased to see the letters that my friends have written about me. It has puffed me right up.

I have written today to Mr. Burton accepting the appointment and the resignation was announced in the local papers today.

I am sorry that my nephew, Jack, is not generous enough to give me his apartment. I shall write to him and tell him that it is his duty to deliver over the goods to his old uncle, but I am afraid that he will be so selfish that he won't do it. However, between you and Jack there ought to be found a fairly good apartment. What is the possibility of getting two rooms in an apartment hotel?

Dr. Solon J. Buck - 2

May 20, 1920.

Perhaps for a year that might be a very good way of living
if not too expensive.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence W. Stoddard

CWA: MJ

*P.S. Thanks for the bibliography and
the biography. The appointment has
made me most happy.*

May 26, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
436 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Enclosed herewith you will find some clippings from our Sunday papers. I am not responsible for the errors contained in the Tribune item.

I talked with Mr. Sherman last night over the telephone and he says the chances are ten to one that he will be ready to give up his apartment. It seems that he has not secured a position for next year as yet, but there is, I understand, no prospect of his remaining on our faculty next year.

It seems to me that this apartment which is on the ground floor would be as satisfactory as anything you could find. The apartment hotels are all located over on the other side of the river some distance from the University. Some members of the faculty live in them and find them satisfactory. I understand that they have long waiting lists now but one or two new ones are being built and a place could probably be secured for you by September if you decide that you want it.

Sherman also said that Idress had written him that she was considering the purchase of a duplex.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 20 1920

~~Alvord~~

May 27.

My dear Solmi:-

You are a "whizzer", if I want to express my admiration of appreciation of your excellent work for Mr Alvord - just another example of what can be done when the proper force is back of it. I feel the change will make a great difference to Clarence - give him new life of new inspiration, if I think to be will justify your interest of support. Naturally we are much pleased that we have friends there, if seems unnecessary to say we are glad you are one of them. We are to give us an additional one in Elizabeth - I note you are willing to expend some more energy in our behalf, if I am going to let you, but hope it won't be so harrowing a

structure as the other - We have an opportunity to buy a duplex house. That sounds like it would be a bargain, of satisfactory as a possible temporary if not permanent home.

As I am not strong enough to come up & look it over, am going to ask if you will go out & look at it, if see what you think, & if possibly close the deal. I wrote Mrs Ford several

weeks ago, in reply to her offer to see about us a place, telling her of this place, & asking her if Mr Ford could look at it, but have not heard from her & Clarence says Mr Ford was away, so would be better for you to call her up & see if they have done anything - I am interested as an investment, even if we do not live there. I know Mrs Cook, wife of the owner, & feel they would ~~could~~ give correct information about the place.

She writes me the upstairs will rent for \$55⁰⁰ heated of no trouble to rent.

figuring the lower floor at 45⁰⁰ or \$50⁰⁰ the investment would make fair return. I think, unless there is too much repairing of taxes are too high. They ask \$8000⁰⁰. I wrote Mrs. Frock in detail what I wanted to know. if you probably can get the letter from her if you see me repeating as is difficult for me to write, but will mention some of most important -

- ✓ Desirability of location.
- ✓ Size of lot of size of rooms.
- ✓ taxes of rates for insurance for 1000⁰⁰
- ✓ What kind lighting system?
- ✓ Hot water heating arrangement.
- ✓ Condition of roof of gutters of plumbing
- ✓ What kind of basement - including laundry facilities -

Would also like to know how house faces, as we plan to put in a sun parlor to living room if we use it.

We are ready to say if you think

it a satisfactory investment that
we will take it, if you can give me of
Mrs Cook to understand so. I am
hoping though you can convince
them they ought to be willing to
allow something toward putting
in the bath room on first floor,
even "200. or 300." would help. Would
probably cost \$500. or thereabouts if they
might at least split it with us -
see what you can do anyway.

Clarence is waiting - company has
come & I must not write more now
anyway. Thank you so much.

Cordially

Edwin

Mrs Cook has already written me some
details - 14 tons of coal - arrangement of
rooms etc.

owner -

Mr Louis G. Cook

56 Clarence Ave

Miner.

he is teaching in this.

"MP" MAYOR

and Rights, Speed Limits Veterans Among Issues.

ensive?"

Many of the queries referred to the cigar shortage and the inquisitors sought to learn from the executive a reason for the present condition.

Little Sarah touched on a current subject when she asked this question: "Does the city government aid the public schools financially? If so, what part of a dollar does it give to the use?"

Edna evidently has a brother who might earn money if the truant laws permitted him to leave school. She asked:

Why should a boy be compelled to attend school when he takes no interest in his work and the family is in great need of his earning money?"

When the war is over why does the cost of living go up every day?" asked Margaret.

Prices Prove Stumbler.

The mayor admitted he found it difficult to answer this one:

Why do all grocers have different prices on the same articles?"

Benjamin evidently has been reading newspapers and he is interested in the policy of the governor. He asked: "What is the method?"

The phraseology of the following question was a puzzler for Mayor Sawyer:

What is the method of the following question: "What is the method of the following question?"

the promotion of police officers and what to do with the mayor?"

put one up to the executive that was a real punch. Asked Abe: "What are all the streets paved where the poor people live and only a third

of the streets graded where the poor people live?"

Here's a job for the Americanization committee. Ida wants to know how her father can become a citizen of the United States, although he can neither read nor write.

Prudent Mary asked one of the prize questions of the day and it is one every householder in Minneapolis would like to have the mayor answer, particularly at this time. Here it is:

"What are the methods of saving money?"

Mayor Meyers makes frequent speeches before school pupils. His plan of having pupils write questions in advance is intended to make his visit profitable. The classroom work is elaborated by his address.

The mayor for six years conducted essay contests among grade school pupils. They were written on lives of eminent Americans and prizes were awarded the winners.

35 REALTY MEN TO GO TO KANSAS CITY

Delegates Will Visit Omaha One Day on Way in Special Train to National Meet.

Thirty-five Minneapolis real estate men have made reservations for special car accommodations to the National Real Estate convention in Kansas City, June 2 to 5. H. U. Nelson, secretary of the Minneapolis Real Estate board, said last night.

The Omaha Real Estate board has invited the Minneapolis delegation to stop there one day en route to the convention. Mr. Nelson said the stop would be made June 1, the special train leaving here Monday night, May 31.

Kansas City has made extensive plans for entertainment. Picnics, automobile tours, a wild west show and the annual banquet are included.

WRITER OF HISTORY TO TAKE "U" CHAIR

Dr. C. W. Alvord Won \$1,000 Prize for Best Work on Sub- ject in Five Year Period.

The acquisition of Professor Clarence W. Alvord, who has accepted an appointment in the department of history at the University of Minnesota and will take up the work in Minneapolis next autumn, has for many years done special research work in Mississippi valley history.

Professor Alvord comes to Minnesota from the University of Illinois, following the example of Dean Guy Stanton Ford and President-elect Lotus D. Coffman, who also came to Minnesota from that institution.

Besides teaching in the University of Illinois, Professor Alvord has served as editor of the "Illinois Historical Collections," a set of 14 volumes published by the Illinois State Historical Library, and of the recently published "Centennial History of Illinois," in five volumes. He is also the author of the first volume of this history covering the period to the admission of the state in 1818. His most notable contribution to history, a work in two volumes entitled "The Mississippi Valley in British Politics," is a study of trade, land speculation, and experiments in imperialism, culminating in the American Revolution. This was published in 1917 and in the following year was awarded the first Loubat prize of \$1,000 for the best work in American history published during the five years, 1913 to 1917, inclusive.

Dr. Alvord in 1905 discovered the archives and records of the old French towns of Kaskaskia and Cahokia, long supposed to be lost. These he found in Chester and Belleville, Ill. The Cahokia records, in Belleville, were

known to the local officials but had escaped the notice of historians generally. The Kaskaskia records, which were discovered at Chester on the top of the bookcases in the circuit clerk's office, had been moved from Kaskaskia about 1850, and for some time had been left standing in drygoods boxes in the courthouse.

These documents contain records of the early settlement and development of the Mississippi valley.

Professor Alvord is a graduate of Williams college, and did his post graduate work at the University of Berlin, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois. He received his doctor's degree from the University of Illinois in 1908.

Lincoln Club to Open Membership Drive

Every member of the Lincoln club of Minneapolis will become a recruiting agent for the organization tomorrow and try to bring in a new member. He is to keep at the job until he gets the member and until the club has a total membership of 2,500 for work in the republican campaign. The club has permanent quarters at Second av S and Fourth st, conducts athletic contests throughout the summer and has meetings of various kinds both for political purposes and for the study of public questions.

BOYS SEE PRISON LIFE.

If one must go to prison, it's a good idea to be ushered through as a privileged guest with special guides to point out the disadvantages of such an existence. This is the opinion of 75 Minneapolis boys who visited the penitentiary at Stillwater under the direction of Ernest Friend of the Northside Y. M. C. A. Boys who made the trip are members of the "Four Square" club, a combination of all the small clubs of the Northside schoolboys.

JUN 9 1920

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

May 29, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

Much obliged for the clipping from the newspapers. I think you "did me up proud"; really much better than the local newspapers down here did.

Since my talk with you at Greencastle concerning Miss Jones, she received a very excellent offer from Urbana and the trustees of the University were forced to give her a salary of \$1200 beginning the first of July. For financial reasons, I should say it would be impossible for her to go to Minneapolis unless this was increased. Her mother and sister have already made all arrangements for living here next year. As I told you before, however, if you can get Miss Jones, you are going to get a most satisfactory stenographer.

You will receive before this letter arrives a letter from Idress concerning the purchase of the Duplex. In some ways this seems a very good bargain and if we use some money to remodel it somewhat, the result would be an excellent apartment for ourselves at a reasonable price and the possibility of selling it later at an increase. We should not consider living in such an apartment indefinitely.

Sincerely yours,

CW Alvord

CWA: MJ

SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF
CLARENCE W. ALVORD

Clarence W. Alvord was born at Greenfield, Massachusetts, in 1868, and graduated from Williams College in 1891. After teaching in Milton Academy (Massachusetts) for two years, he began his graduate work in history, spending the years 1893-95 at the University of Berlin and part of the following year at the University of Chicago. From 1897 to 1901 he taught in the Preparatory school of the University of Illinois. He was appointed instructor in history in the University proper in 1901 and was promoted to "associate" in 1906, assistant professor in 1907, associate professor in 1909, and professor in 1913.

Until 1905 Mr. Alvord's principal interest was in European history. In that year the trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library sent him into the region of the early French settlements in southwestern Illinois to examine an old French document. While on this trip he discovered the archives or records of Kaskaskia and Cahokia and other materials relating to the early history of the region which had been reported to have been destroyed. The outcome was that Mr. Alvord was engaged by the board to edit these materials for publication in the Illinois Historical Collections, a series the first volume of which had already been issued under other editorship.

The Cahokia Records which appeared as volume 3 of the Collections at once marked Mr. Alvord as a thoroughly competent editor and he was put in general charge of the Collections. His introduction to the volume was a brilliant study (153 p.) of "The

County of Illinois" created by Virginia in 1778, and was accepted by the University of Illinois as fulfilling the thesis requirement for the degree of Ph. D., which he received in 1908. Mr. Alvord promptly worked out a systematic plan for the publication in the Collections of all the important sources for the history of the state, the volumes to be grouped logically in a number of series. While working on the second of his own volumes, the Kaskaskia Records, he put other people to work editing other volumes under his general direction.

In 1909 the University of Illinois and the State Historical Library began to make plans for the celebration in 1918 of the centennial of the admission of the state to the Union, and a bureau known as the Illinois Historical Survey was created at the University to promote research work in the history of the state and especially to lay the foundations for a Centennial History. Professor Alvord was put in charge of this survey and the writer was called to Illinois in January, 1910, to be his assistant in the work.

The publication in 1908 of Professor Alvord's address on the "Genesis of the Proclamation of 1763," and in 1913 of his study, in collaboration with Mr. Bidgood, of The First Exploration of the Trans-Allegheny Regions by Virginians, 1650-1674, demonstrated that his work and his interest were far from being merely local or antiquarian. The latter work was characterized by the American Library Association Booklist as "The first authoritative work on the subject and, in view of the facts for the first time presented should prove an important contribution to the history of western exploration."

Mr. Alvord was one of the founders of the Mississippi Valley

Historical Association, established in 1907, and was its president for the year 1908-09. The Mississippi Valley Historical Review, founded in 1914, owes its existence and success entirely to him. He made all the plans for it; persuaded the Mississippi Valley Historical Association to undertake its publication on condition that a guarantee fund could be raised; secured as guarantors such men as Frank O. Lowden, Julius Rosenwald, Cyrus H. McCormick, and Justin H. Smith (a distinguished historian and brother of the late attorney-general of Minnesota, Lyndon A. Smith) and served as managing editor from the first issue in June, 1914, to the present. This review was quickly recognized as, next to the American Historical Review, the most important historical periodical published in the United States. If Professor Alvord comes to Minnesota the editorial office of this Review will come with him.

In 1913 the legislature of Illinois established the Illinois Centennial Commission to have charge of the centennial celebration. The commission decided that the occasion should be marked by the production of a comprehensive history of the state and Professor Alvord was appointed editor-in-chief. Plans were worked out for the publication of six volumes -- an "Introductory Volume," entitled Illinois in 1818, by the present writer, and a five volume narrative history of which Mr. Alvord was himself to write the first covering the period before 1818. A great deal of preliminary work had to be done before the writing of a history of the scholarly character insisted on by the editor could be begun; transcripts were secured of thousands of documents in French and British Archives, newspaper files were borrowed from the offices of the papers in all parts of the state, and countless extracts from them were selected and typed as source

material to be used by the writers.

In August, 1914, the writer left the University of Illinois but he spent a month there in the summer of 1916 working on Illinois in 1818. Mr. Alvord was not well that summer, being afflicted especially with rheumatism, but he kept at his work until October when he went to Mudlavia, Indiana, where he remained until the end of December, still keeping in touch with the work of his office to some extent, however. In January he went to Florida where he remained until April when he returned and took up the work once more. In the meantime certain teeth, to which the cause of his illness was traced, had been removed and his health was considerably improved. It continued to improve slowly during the summer until by August ¹⁹¹⁷ he was playing golf and by fall he was completely recovered and in the full swing of his work on the Centennial History.

During 1916 and 1917, in spite of his illness, Mr. Alvord completed and put through the press his two volume work entitled The Mississippi Valley in British Politics; A Study of the Trade, Land Speculation, and Experiments in Imperialism Culminating in the American Revolution. In 1918 the first of the two Loubat prizes "for the best works on the history, geography, archaeology, ethnology, philology, or numismatics of North America, which have been printed and published in the English language for the five year period since January 1, 1913" was awarded to him for this work. This prize of \$1000 is administered by the Trustees of Columbia University, and the committee appointed by President Nicholas Murray Butler to make nominations consisted of Professors Herbert E. Bolton, of the University of

California, Paul Van Dyke, of Princeton, and William Milligan Sloan, lately of Columbia. The work was reviewed by distinguished scholars in many periodicals of this country and England, and was universally recognized as a very important contribution to both American and English history. Professor Egerton the well known English historian wrote as follows in the English Historical Review:

Of the younger school of American historians few have done or are doing more useful work than Professor Alvord of the University of Illinois. By helping, directly and indirectly, to bring to light of day the records of the Middle-Western States in which he lives, he is opening out a new chapter of American history. But Mr. Alvord has never been content to deal with that history apart from its European background. Some years ago he published a paper on "The Genesis of the Proclamation of October 7, 1763," which first gave a satisfactory interpretation of that puzzling document; and the present work is an ambitious and exhaustive "Study of the Trade, Land Speculation, and Experiments in Imperialism culminating in the American Revolution." Mr. Alvord has shown much industry in consulting whatever Authority might throw light on his subject. By the courtesy of Lord Lansdowne and of Lord Dartmouth and the public spirit of the University of Illinois he has been able to obtain copies of invaluable Lansdowne MSS. (for the contents of which the bald calendar published by the Historical MSS. Commission is practically useless) and of Dartmouth MSS. He has made use of a great body of pamphlet literature, as well as of the more familiar authorities on the period; and, as a rule, his good sense and judgment are on a par with his learning.

When Mr. Alvord returned from Florida he had not begun the composition of his volume of the Centennial History. Since then he has written the entire book besides editing and in part ^wre-writing the other volumes. He has also during that period brought out two volumes of a new Constitutional Series of the Illinois Historical Collections, and completed the editing of another volume of the British Series, which is in press. He is now engaged in editing a history, in two volumes and an atlas, of the principal Illinois regiment in the World War. He intends to make his next major work a study of the Mississippi Valley in the American Revolution as a continuation of his Mississippi Valley in British Politics, which

closes with the year 1774.

During all these years except 1916-17 Professor Alvord continued to teach in the University. He has the reputation of being an exceptionally good teacher of undergraduates. I know from personal observation and experience that his work with advanced students is of the very best. I found him the most stimulating person to work with that I have ever known. Quite a number of young men and women of promise in the historical field received most of their training from him. Professor Clarence E. Carter of Miami University might be cited as an example. Under Mr. Alvord's guidance he wrote a doctor's thesis on Great Britain and the Illinois Country which was awarded the Justin Winsor prize of the American Historical Association.

From the accompanying bibliography, it appears that, since 1905, Professor Alvord has acted as general editor of three sets of publications, the Collections (13 volumes), the Centennial History (5 volumes), and the Mississippi Valley Historical Review (6 volumes); he has himself edited, in whole or in part, five large volumes of documents, and a number of smaller pieces; and he has written three volumes alone and one in collaboration with another, besides a considerable number of articles and addresses. Three volumes of Collections, of one of which he is the special editor; the entire Centennial History, except the introductory volume; the completion and publication of his Mississippi Valley in British Politics; and three volumes of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review represent his output since his illness of 1916-17. There is no reason to suppose that the energy and productivity manifested by this record of the last fifteen years will not be equaled or even exceeded during the next fifteen years. He is unquestionably increasing

in power; the first volume of the Centennial History, which I have read in proof, is, I believe, the best thing he has done and it is certainly the best state history that has ever been written.

Some question has been raised as to why Professor Alvord should want to leave Illinois and why that institution should allow him to be taken away. The explanation is two-fold. In the first place he has become involved in so many different things there that he feels that his energies are being scattered and he wants to concentrate on teaching, editing the Review, and personal research. In the second place his salary at Illinois has been unsatisfactory to him for some time. The compensation which he receives from the State Historical Library is fixed by law at a very inadequate figure. An attempt was made to increase it last year but the political situation made salary increases impossible. The University authorities felt ~~that~~ they could not increase his university salary to make up the deficiency in his salary from the State Historical Library, since he was giving most of his time to the latter institution, and the University itself was in financial difficulties. The situation was such that last summer he tendered his resignation. He was induced to withdraw it by President James, with whom his relations have always been very close, but who has now left the University. When the Minnesota offer was made to him, he made no attempt to use it to secure an increase at Illinois, but decided to accept it regardless of anything that might be done for him there. Consequently the door was closed to any move on the part of Illinois to retain him.

(Signed) Selon J. Buck

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD

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the exhibit.)

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1907-1920

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, vols. 2-14. Edited. Springfield, 1907-1920.

Professor Alvord has planned and acted as general editor of the entire series. The volumes are grouped in the following series: Virginia, 3; Lincoln, 1; Executive, 2; Bibliographical, 3; British, 2. * Volumes 13 and 14, which have just been issued from the press and have not been distributed as yet begin a new Constitutional series. Another volume of the British series is in press and several volumes are in advanced stages of preparation. The volumes of which Professor Alvord is the special as well as the general editor are listed separately.

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1914-1920

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1914

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- * Planning the Publication Work of Historical Agencies. In the American Historical Association, Annual Reports, 1913, vol. 1, pp. 217-224.

* The Illinois-Wabash Land Company Manuscript. Edited with an introduction. Chicago, 1915. 32, 40 p.

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The Critical Period, 1763-1765, edited with introduction and notes. [With Clarence E. Carter]. Springfield, 1915. lvii, 597 p. (Illinois Historical Collections, vol. 10.)

1916

The New Régime, 1765-1767. Edited with introduction and notes. [With Clarence E. Carter.] Springfield, 1916. xxviii, 700 p. (Illinois Historical Collections, vol. 11.)

Virginia and the West; An Interpretation. In the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 3:19-28 (June, 1916).

1917

The Mississippi Valley in British Politics; a Study of Trade, Land Speculation, and Experiments in Imperialism, Culminating in the American Revolution. Cleveland, Arthur H. Clark Co., 1917. 2v.

Awarded the first Loubat Prize of \$1000 for the best work in American history published in the five years following January 1, 1913.

1917-1920

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This set consists of an introductory volume, Illinois in 1818, and the five volume narrative history, of which Professor Alvord wrote the first himself, covering the period before 1818. Volumes 4 and 5 have just issued from the press and have not been distributed as yet.

June 1, 1920

Mrs. C. W. Alvord
South Lincoln Ave.,
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Idress:-

Your letter of May 27 reached me on Saturday and I got into touch with Mrs. Ford at the first opportunity. She tells me that she called up Mrs. Cook and learned that if you took the place and lived there, you would be expected to run the furnace for the whole building, etc. Mrs. Ford has written you all about it, I believe, so there is no use of my trying to repeat it.

We are all agreed here that it would be distinctly unwise for you to attempt to live in Prospect Park where this duplex is located. It is an attractive neighborhood in some ways but quite a distance from the University and from the people with whom you and Clarnece would want to be in touch. It is possible, of course, to take the street car but that is not very satisfactory. As for purchasing for an investment, I should not want to advise anyone to buy a duplex in Prospect Park, for the reason that commercial and manufacturing establishments are encroaching upon the neighborhood and I doubt if it will remain a good residential district very long.

I understand from Mrs. Ford, moreover, that the building is an old one with high ceilinged rooms and consequently hard to heat. I do not know exactly what the taxes are on real estate here but do know that they are very high. If, in spite of what you have heard from Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Cook since writing to me, you still want me to look over the place and give you detailed information about it, I shall be glad to do so, but I would not want to take the responsibility of closing the deal, and I am inclined to think it would be very much better for you to wait until after you move up here before investing in Minneapolis real estate. There are undoubtedly opportunities for profitable investments here, but it would be much better for you to see just what they are before going into them.

My advice would be to take the Sherman apartment, which he almost certainly will not want, and then look

Mrs. C. W. A. 6/1/30--2

the situation over thoroughly before deciding what you want to do in the future both as to a home and as to investments.

Elizabeth and I are looking forward to having you and Clarence here next year and we are quite sure that you will enjoy Minneapolis and will like the Minnesota people.

Sincerely yours

B/P

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

June 7, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

I find on my desk a letter dictated to you on May 29, which is the last day I was up in the office. A week ago Saturday Idress came down with smallpox contracted in Palmyra, Missouri and is now in the hospital. I have been vaccinated and fumigated and am pronounced safe.

The second bit of news that will interest you is that Theodore C. Pease has been appointed my successor.

I notice on the paper of the conference of State Historical Agencies that I am supposed to represent the Illinois State Historical Library. This should be the Illinois Historical Survey.

The trouble with Sherman's apartment is that the rooms are so very small. We shall take it if we are obliged to, but it does seem that something better might be found, although I know the difficulties. In the first place will you yourself take a look at the duplex house. We have in mind plastering it and building a sun parlor on the lower apartment. Idress feels she cannot live without a place for flowers. You might also take a look around to see if there are any other duplex houses for purchase, or a bungalow. I hate to trouble you so much.

I am enclosing the belated letter of May 29.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Alvord

CWA:h

June 8, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord,
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Last June shortly before leaving here I made arrangements with Paul Smith, one of our graduate students, to compile the index for volume 9 of the Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. He worked on it off and on during the summer and finally completed and sent me the cards from New York. At the time when they arrived I had just returned from my two months vacation and was swamped with work. The consequence was that the cards got ~~laid aside~~ and I have just now resurrected them.

I find on looking them over that the work has been very well done and can be made ready for the press with a very small amount of labor. The indexes of the Review were followed as a model so far as the articles were concerned but the actual "Proceedings" were indexed somewhat more fully.

The last issue of the Proceedings contained the following statement in the preface:

"This issue of the Proceedings forms the third part of volume IX, and the last, with the exception of the title page, table of contents, and index. These will be published in a few months as another "extra number" of the Review."

Some consideration had also been given to the possibility of including in this "extra number" a list of members of the association. The question is what had we better do ~~about this~~ now? It seems to me very important that the title page and index should be issued in order that the volume may be closed up and bound. (I trust that the Proceedings for 1918-19 are to appear as volume 10, part 1.) In view of the paper situation and also of the fact that Mrs. Paine ~~is~~ apparently unable to put a list of members into such condition that it could be published without a great deal of editorial revision, I am inclined to think that we had better bring out merely the title page and index. This would make a very small pamphlet, not more than twelve pages I think. It would not, I suppose, be necessary to have a cover on it, but the Review title

C. W. A. 6/8/20--2

could be printed on the first page with the idea that that page would be torn out before binding in the Proceedings.

Possibly it would be better to issue the index as a supplement to a number of the Review instead of as an "extra number." It would then have to be sent out in the same envelope with the number to which it is a supplement in order to secure the second class postage.

It suppose it would be well to wait until Miss Wheelhouse gets here and have her run over the index slips and put the final touches on the thing before sending it to the press. Will it be possible to get paper the same as that used in the previous parts of the volume? It would be unfortunate to have the index on different paper from the rest of the volume.

I trust that all is well with you and Iress and that you will not overwork yourself trying to finish things up at Illinois.

Sincerely yours

B/P

June 12, 1920

My dear Clarence and Idress:-

I went out to look at Mr. Cook's house last night and went into the matter very carefully. I enclose a booklet containing some maps on which you can figure out the location and its relation to the University. On page 15 of this booklet, you will find a map of Minneapolis with the location of this house indicated by a square and arrow. You will note that the house faces practically north-east. It is about a mile from the University Library where your office will be. To go on the street car, you would take the car on University avenue which runs into Minneapolis on Washington avenue. If you will now turn to the map on page 24 you will see the location of the University Library and the place on Washington avenue where you would leave the car for a walk of about three blocks to the Library.

The neighborhood is at present a very good one with winding streets, attractive houses, and large lots and gardens. Garages, stores and manufacturing plants are creeping in on University avenue, but would probably not affect this immediate neighborhood for a number of years at least.

The house is located on the southeastern most of two lots which belong to the place and ought if possible to be kept together. The total frontage of the two lots is only 100 ft., but the side lines diverge so that the property is about 175 ft. wide at the back. It is about 170 ft. deep. The northwest lot has been devoted mainly to a flower garden and is quite extensively planted with shrubs and flowers. The man who lives on the other side of this vacant lot, a Mr. Wold, has offered \$2000 for their order to insure himself against the erection of a building on it. Mr. Cook's offer to you of the property at \$8000 did not include this lot and he would expect an additional \$2000 for this lot. A possibility which occurs to me would be for the purchaser of the duplex and Mr. Wold to split the lot, each paying \$1000 for half of it and thus each being insured against the possible erection of a building. You might prefer to have the entire lot, however, in order to control its planting.

There is a small wooden garage back of the house and there are some fruit trees on the place; also fine shade trees in front. The house itself is a wooden one, thirty-three years old. The second floor was

C. W. A. 6/13/20--2

made over two or three years ago into a very attractive apartment, with modern woodwork, etc. About that time a two story addition was erected on the southeast side of the house which provided large sun rooms or sleeping porches for each apartment. These rooms are equipped with French windows, screens, and radiators. This addition is stuccoed on the outside and the intention was that the rest of the house should ultimately be covered with stucco. I think I should recommend that this be done as it is badly in need of painting, and moreover it would have a much more modern appearance if it were covered with stucco. Mr. Cook plans to paint it in case he does not sell, but if he paints it and then sells, he will expect three or four hundred dollars more than the \$8000.

The first floor, except for the addition mentioned is practically in its original condition as regards rooms, woodwork, etc. The floors are all hard wood, the woodwork is light oak with old fashioned trimming. The place has decided possibilities, however, and if you were willing to put \$2000 into it you could make a very attractive first floor apartment. Mr. Cook is putting in a bathroom on the first floor at present and does not expect to make an extra charge for that. He would also expect to do some papering and painting on the first floor.

As it is now there is but one entrance and the occupants of the second floor passthrough the hall of the first floor apartment. It would be a fairly simple matter, however, to put in a partition and a separate entrance for the second floor apartment.

The principal rooms on the first floor are as follows: a good sized hall; a parlor about 15 X 15 with a small grate in a corner; a living room about the same size, not including its bay window; a small dining room; a large kitchen; one good sized bedroom and the sleeping porch. If rearranged I should think it desirable to make the living room into a dining room, the dining room into a kitchen, the bedroom into a study, and the present kitchen into a bedroom. Another bedroom could be built on at the back if desired. If the sun room or sleeping porch were not sufficient, the front porch could readily be enclosed to make another small sun room.

The up stairs rooms include a good sized living room, a medium sized dining room, one large bed room, two small bed rooms, a small kitchen and the sleeping porch. The plumbing and burnishings in the kitchen and bathroom up stairs seem to be modern and attractive. The plumbing in the kitchen on the first floor is old and you will probably want to replace it if you should attempt to use that kitchen.

G. W. A. 6/12/20--3

The taxes are \$160 a year at present and the insurance is at the rate of \$8.80 per thousand. The house is equipped with electric lights throughout, and has a modern hot water heating plant with a Spence boiler which was put in about three years ago. The hot water is heated by a coil in the furnace, the tank being in the down stairs kitchen at present. There is also a gas heater, not automatic, in the basement which can be used for heating the tank when the furnace is not running. There is only one tank for the two apartments.

Mr. Cook says the roof and plumbing are in good condition and that he expects to put the gutters and spouts in good condition.

The basement consists of a furnace room, laundry, and vegetable room, all with concrete floors and in good condition. I think there are stationary tubs in the laundry, but would not want to take oath to this. In the winter clothes could be hung in the furnace room or in the attic, where by the way it would be possible to finish off a couple of small rooms if desired.

If you bought the house and the vacant lot at \$10000 and then put \$2000 into remodeling, you would have an investment of \$12000, but you would have two apartments which, as prices are at present, would rent readily at \$50 a month each, giving you a total of \$1200 or ten per cent (gross) on the investment. I am not sure but what the apartments would rent for \$55 or \$60, although rents are not as high in that location as nearer to the University. If you buy only the house and one lot, your total investment would be only \$10000 and doubtless the first floor could be made inhabitable without much remodeling if you do not wish to put the money into it at present. I understand that Mr. Cook desires only \$2000 down but expects seven per cent interest on the remainder.

I know so little about real estate values that I do not feel that my advice in this matter would be worth much. My impression is, however, that financially the proposition is a fair one and that it would be a reasonably safe investment. I am very much of the opinion, however, that before closing the deal one of you ought to come to Minneapolis and see it for yourself. Then if you do buy it would be possible for you to decide on alterations, repairs, etc., and have the work done during the summer so that it would be ready for your occupancy in the fall.

The principal drawback is unquestionably the distance from the University, though there are quite a number of

C. W. A. 6/13/30--4

University people living in Prospect Park. The other members of the department to whom I have spoken say "Oh, don't let him go out to Prospect Park," but I do not feel so strongly about it myself. I walked out last night and it took me about twenty minutes. I have not had a chance as yet to make any inquiries about other duplexes or bungalows which may be for sale, but will do so the first of the week and will write you if I find anything attractive.

Sincerely yours

B/P

P. S. I enclose some correspondence which explains itself. Webster apparently overlooked the word "mathematics" in my letter.

June 14, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

The letter which I wrote to you Saturday was dictated so hastily that I failed to take up a number of points in your letters of May 29 and June 7.

In the first place I intended to express my regret at Idress's new affliction, and my hope that it will not result in a serious set back to her general recovery.

I received a letter from Larson in the same mail in which he informed me very guardedly that Pease was likely to be appointed as your successor and made some inquiries about a man named Jenks who was here a couple of years ago and whom he was considering for Pease's place. I was unable to recommend Jenks very highly, but I did recommend Stephenson, an underpaid instructor in our department, for the position. Yesterday I noticed in the paper that said Jenks has received one of the two thousand dollar ~~Harst~~ fellowships. I suppose he has been eliminated from consideration.

Has it been decided what rank Pease will have in the faculty? Will he do any teaching? I take it that he is to be both director of the Illinois Historical Survey and editor of the Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library.

As regards Miss Jones, I do not think there is any possibility of our paying as much as she is getting there. As I understand it our present departmental stenographer receives ninety dollars a month for nine months. I guess that is all for the present except that some remodeling is being done in the University Library building which will provide you with a satisfactory office.

Sincerely yours

B/P

JUN 21 1920

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PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

June 17, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

First of all I want to commend you on the lucidity of your description of the house. I feel almost as if it were not necessary to come up there before deciding. However, I think it likely that I will go up the latter part of this month. If we are unable to rent a satisfactory apartment, I feel the best thing for us to do will be to buy this one, not with the idea of keeping it any length of time, but of fixing it up and selling it whenever we have an offer.

Idress is going to get out of the hospital today or tomorrow.

Pease has been appointed assistant professor and will do the same teaching that I have done. The question of the Illinois Historical Survey is still undecided I understand. Neither Pease nor I have been consulted on the subject.

I meant to say that there is no necessity of changing the conference stationery. It is a small matter.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence W. Alvord

CWA: MJ

*P.S. John Sherman writes that he and
Gras have in sight a very fine apartment.*

JUN 24 1920

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

June 22, 1920

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

My dear Mr. Buck:

When I returned to the office today after my vacation I found your letter of June 8 concerning the index to volume 9 of the Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, which Mr. Alvord has asked me to answer.

Mr. Alvord agrees with you that, under the circumstances, it would be better to bring out merely the title page and index, without the list of members, and to issue it as a supplement to a number of the Review.

I shall be glad to go over the index slips when I get there, as you suggested.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Wheelhouse

JUN 26 1920

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
HISTORICAL REVIEW

CLARENCE W. ALVORD
MANAGING EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL URBANA, ILLINOIS

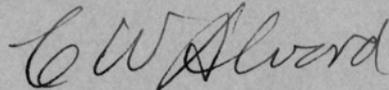
June 23, 1920.

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

My dear Mr. Buck:

In accordance with the custom of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, I am writing to ask that you send me at your earliest convenience a copy of the paper read by you before the meeting of the association in Greencastle, in order that it may be considered for publication either in the Review or the Proceedings. May I also ask that you accompany the paper with a brief abstract of its contents in order to save time for the editor of the Proceedings and to avoid a possible inaccuracy of interpretation or emphasis.

Sincerely yours,



CWA:h

June 24, 1920

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

I am glad to know that you are planning to come up to look over the housing situation. Let me know just when to expect you. Father is making us a visit just now but I think we can arrange to take you in.

I enclose herewith a sheet from the "Want Add" section of Sunday's Minneapolis Journal. The University section is known as "Southeast."

I talked with our landlord who is in the real estate business, but he seems to know of very few suitable places. He has a house in our neighborhood which will be for rent September 1, but the sleeping rooms are all on the second floor so I suppose you would not want it. It has only seven rooms but he is asking the modest sum of seventy-five dollars a month for it. He intimated that he might be willing to sell the three family apartment in which we live and of which he himself occupies the first floor at present, but he considers it worth twenty thousand dollars.

Sincerely yours

B/P

July 10, 1920

Professor C. W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

My dear Clarence:-:-

Can you let me know at your early convenience what you plans are with reference to the publication of Shippee's paper on Jane Grey Swisshelm? I should like to know whether or not it is to be published in the Review. If so, in what number and at what rate separates can be secured.

I have an inquiry from one of the members of the council of the Minnesota Historical Society who is a nephew of Mrs. Swisshelm. The paper was read at the April meeting of the executive council and if consistent with your policy, I would appreciate a note to that effect accompanying it in the Review.

Miss Wheelhouse tells me that you have purchased the duplex in Prospect Park and that you are planning to come up some time in August to look after alterations, etc. I would suggest that if you expect to live in the place before Christmas you had better come up and make arrangements for the alterations just as soon as possible, as it is very difficult to get anything of this sort done around here at present.

Miss Wheelhouse is taking hold of her work very well and it is quite a relief to me to have a competent person on the job.

Let me know when to expect you up here.

Sincerely yours

B/P

JUL 17 1920

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR

416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

July 14, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

It is my intention to print Shippee's paper and separates may be obtained from the Torch Press at a fixed rate which Miss Wheelhouse probably can tell you from her notes; in fact, the whole matter can be attended to by her.

I have been meaning to write you for some time to tell you that I had purchased the house at Prospect Park, and on the whole am fairly well pleased. Your letter concerning it was so good that Idress and I decided that there was no need of our going to Minnesota to look at the house for we could not think of anything that we would be likely to see that you had overlooked. I suppose that the labor situation in Minnesota is the same as it is elsewhere and am sorry that we cannot get up to the city earlier than about August 20.

By the way, will you kindly send me a list of the best building and loan associations in Minnesota? I should like to get in touch with some one of them soon.

You will be interested to know, if Miss Wheelhouse has not already told you, that Idress is very much better. She works in her garden two or three hours every day besides playing auction at night occasionally. We had a game last night with two men, John Dent being one. You will be interested to know that Dent has been offered a position at the University of Illinois, but is holding his answer until he can hear from the University of Wisconsin where he expects a still better offer.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence

CWA: MJ

JUL 28 1920

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416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

July 27, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

I think that Mereness had better
begin work in the general land office.

Shall see you in about four weeks.

Sincerely yours,

CW Alvord

CWA:MJ

July 30, 1930

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Clarence:-

Some time ago you asked me
for a list of Building and Loan associa-
tions in Minneapolis. I asked Miss Palmes
to prepare such a list and she has submitted
the enclosed.

Sincerely yours

B/P

AUG 7 1920

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LOCATED AT SPRINGFIELD

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR
416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

August 5, 1920

Dear Helen:

I shall arrive in Minneapolis on
next Tuesday morning via Northwestern sometime
in the neighborhood of 7. I shall be alone, address
waiting here for a couple of weeks. I shall
stop at Jack Sherman's, at least I am writing
him to expect me. See you before long.
Am packing books.

Sincerely
Clarence

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

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

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CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
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If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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DR SOLON J BUCK

CARE MINN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SSTPAUL MINN

SHERMAN MOVED MEET ME AT EIGHT IF POSSIBLE

C W ALVORD.

1920 AUG 9 PM 2 13

Handwritten notes:
 WY
 J + V
 refuse

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CLARENCE W. ALVORD, EDITOR
416 LINCOLN HALL, URBANA, ILLINOIS

AUG 12 1920

418 Lincoln Hall,
August 9, 1920.

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

My dear Solon:

I enclose a letter from the Minneapolis
Journal which tells its own story. Did you get
~~back~~ ^{back} ~~of~~ any of my photographs ~~from~~ the newspapers?
I am referring the Journal to you.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence

CWA:ARK.