



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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JAN 29 1920

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Jan. 27, 1920.

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

My dear Dr. Buck:- I am enclosing the letter which I recieved from The Arthur H. Clark Co. in regard to the publication ~~of~~ my manuscript. As you will note in it, the only way he would undertake the publication would be at my expense. In your first letter regarding it you said that it would probably be under such conditions so I was not surprised at that. I was somewhat surprised at some other things in the letter, however, and you may be also. For that reason I would like to be present when you read it. According to Clark Minnesota still seems to be a good field for missionary activity.

I also had a letter from Dean Ford in which he said that it was almost certain that funds would not permit the publication in the University Studies this year. Therefore, I hardly know just what is the best next move in regard to it. If it is alright to wait until it is finally determined that the University cannot publish it I am satisfied to do so. I might look somewhere else for a publisher, but presume that the outcome would be similar to the correspondence with Clark. I shall be glad to receive any further suggestions which you might have as to what is best to do about it.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Shortridge.

January 31, 1930

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

Dear Shertridge:-

Thank you for sending me the letter of Arthur H. Clark. It furnished me with considerable amusement. The explanation is, of course, that the University Library does not buy Clark's publications because of the understanding with the historical society by which the field is divided. Neither institution buys second hand books from Clark very often, because his prices are always high.

After talking things over with Ford, I am inclined to think that it would be advisable for you to try to get your thesis published in some way in the near future. Your prospects for advancement in your profession will, of course, depend to a considerable extent on that. I think it probable that you could make a better bargain for publication with some other publisher than with Clark, and I would suggest that you get into communication with the following firms:

Richard G. Badger, 194-300 Boylston St. Boston

The Stratford Co. Publishers, 32 Oliver St. Boston

Neale Publishing Co. 440 - 4 Ave. New York City

The first of these firms published Stephenson's thesis and while it is not as sumptuous a work as those Clark puts out, it does very well.

Will you pardon me for making a suggestion with reference to your correspondence? It is that you sign your letters with a pen instead of on the typewriter. It does not make any difference in your letters to me, of course, but the typewritten signature is not considered good form and would make a bad impression on some people.

I sincerely hope that you succeed in making satisfactory arrangements for the publication of your thesis and will be glad to assist in any possible way. For example, if a letter from me to a prospective publisher, recommending the work, would be of any use do not hesitate to let me know.

B/P

Sincerely yours

P.S. Unless you settle the matter of publications in the near future, you had better send Ford a formal request for expression of time. He said he could extend it to Jan. 1 - without consulting the exec. com. S.J.D.

FEB 6 1920

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Feb. 2, 1920.

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

My dear Dr. Buck:- As you suggest in your letter which I received today, I am writing to several publishers regarding the publication of my thesis. As I get information on the question I shall keep you informed.

Perhaps if there is no prospect of the University bringing it out it might be well if Dean Ford would return the manuscript to me. Then I could give it another "final once over" and have it ready. Every time that I have looked back over it I have found something to change and I almost dread reading it over again, but it might be best, especially since it will not be published there. I wonder if the maps out of the original copy of the thesis as submitted last spring might be returned to me to be placed in the copy to be sent to the publishers or to have copies made for that purpose. Then I could return the maps to you to be placed again in the manuscript there. I do not believe that I have copies just like I sent in.

It might be well if Dean Ford would make note of an extension of time to January 1. You say he can do this without consulting the committee. I cannot see how it could be brought out now by June, but perhaps it might by January 1. Anyway it will be under way, I hope, and we could tell by fall whether it would be out by January 1. If it would run over, I could then ask for an extension. I want to get it off as soon as I can now.

I expect to teach for six weeks during the summer and will have the remainder of the time to work on this if necessary. I begun another piece of work, but am letting it go over until next year. I have an opportunity to go to the University of West Virginia, and have good prospects of an opportunity to go to the University of Virginia. I would prefer the latter place, but the deal at West Virginia is developing so rapidly that I fear I shall have to give an answer there before they decide at Virginia. I am anxious to go east for a summer. At Virginia I should probably come up against the real Southern aristocracy, but it would probably do me good and a "breeze from the West" might be a novelty at least for them. I should look forward with much interest to an experience at the University of Virginia.

I shall let you hear when I know anything definite about my thesis.

Very truly yours,

W.P. Shortridge

P.S. Thanks for the suggestion regarding signature. You observe that I have profited by it. I have not always signed with the typewriter but have done so quite a little of late as it is so much easier.

✓

February 7, 1920

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

Dear Shortridge:-

I had a talk with Dean Ford yesterday afternoon about the maps in your thesis, and he is unwilling to let them be sent away unless copies are made for preservation here. We finally agreed that the best plan would be to have photostatic copies made of the maps for filing with the original thesis and then send the original maps to you. If it is agreeable to you I can have these copies made on the historical society photostat at a cost to you of not over \$1.50. Please let me hear from you about this at once, as we expect to be doing some other work with the photostat in the near future and would want to handle this at the same time.

I want to congratulate you on your prospects for a summer school position. I agree that the University of Virginia sounds more attractive than West Virginia, but a session at either of them ought to be an interesting experience. If you go to West Virginia, you will doubtless meet my friend Charles H. Ambler, who was a graduate student in history at Wisconsin when I was there.

Sincerely yours

B/P

FEB 13 1920

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Feb. 9, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- In reply to your letter which I received today, it would be very satisfactory to me to have the photostatic copies of the maps in my thesis and I get the originals. If you will send me the bill for the work I shall immediately send you a check for same. My idea was to have copies made and return the originals, but the photostatic copies will be an easier and a better way. I did not think of that.

The West Virginia proposition has virtually been closed before I heard from Virginia. I had their offer for about a week and they were waiting for descriptive matter for the summer session bulletin. I shall give my course on Recent History of the United States and either American Economic History or The History of the West, or possibly even both. They evidently believe in getting their money's worth, but it will be a good experience and, I believe, a step to something better. I think Ambler will be there, but am not sure. I shall be glad to know him. My negotiations have been carried on with Prof. Callahan whom I have known for a number of years.

Very truly yours,

W.P. Shortridge

P.S. Will let you know about publishers when I have something to report.

February 20, 1920

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

Dear Shortridge:-

Herewith I am sending you the maps from the original copy of your thesis on file in Dean Ford's office. I enclose also a bill for four photostatic prints of these maps which I am turning over to Dean Ford for substitution in the thesis. ✓

The other day I had a long talk with Will D. Howe, formerly professor of English at Indiana University, and now with the new firm of Harcourt, Brace & Howe, Publishers, 1 West 47 St., New York City. These people have got together a very good list of books and seem to be eager to get western material. I told Howe about your thesis, and he thought it quite likely that the firm would be willing to publish it on a regular basis.

I would suggest that you take the matter up with Mr. Howe at once, writing him in care of the firm and referring to me.

Sincerely yours

B/P

FEB 27 1920

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Feb. 24, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- Enclosed you will find check for \$1.25 in payment of bill for the prints of the maps from my thesis. Thank you very much for the work.

As you suggested I am writing to Mr. Will D. Howe in regard to the publication of my manuscript. I certainly appreciate the suggestion and hope something may come from it. I shall let you know what I hear. I wrote to the Publishers whose addresses you gave me once before and heard from all of them. They wanted to look over the manuscript but would not even venture an expression of opinion as to what terms they might take it on. I received the manuscript from Dean Ford the other day and am looking it over again.

I have accepted the appointment for summer work at the University of West Virginia. I believe that I shall have a pleasant and profitable experience there this summer.

Very truly yours,

Wilson C. Shortridge

APR 1 1920

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

March 30, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- While I was still at Minnesota Krey suggested to me that in view of the work I had had in Economics I might find it to my advantage financially if I went over to Economics; he mentioned it again last summer in view of the fact that I have done some Economics courses here. I have received a letter from Ebersole in which he said that he thought the prospects would be good in that line. Today I had a letter from Indiana University, where I graduated once upon a time, asking if I would be interested in a position in Economics there. I am not sure that I am interested, but I am writing there and am giving your name as reference. I am inclined to think that they will not come to the salary I stated which was what I would get here with a promise of more the year following. I do not exactly want to leave History work. In fact, I do not feel as much interested at present in Economics, but the H.C.L. is certainly going after College Professors hard and may make some of them do some things they would rather not do. You may not hear from Professor Rawles, but if you do you will understand how it is. I should greatly appreciate anything you might say in my behalf.

I am still working on the proposition of getting my thesis out, but haven't much progress to report at present. I shall keep you informed of any developments.

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

HORACE A. HOFFMAN, DEAN
WILLIAM A. RAWLES, ASSISTANT DEAN
SELATIE E. STOUT, ASSISTANT DEAN

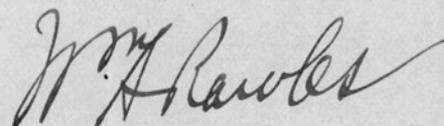
April 1, 1920.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Professor Buck:

We are considering Mr. Wilson P. Shortridge for a position in the department of Economics of Indiana University. He has mentioned you as being one who knows something concerning his qualifications, training, and character. I shall appreciate your kindness if you will write me fully concerning these points. I hope you will tell me what are the unfavorable as well as the favorable elements in Mr. Shortridge's case. Your letter will be held strictly confidential.

Very truly yours,



WAR/P

Shorbridge

April 5, 1930

Professor William A. Rawles
College of Liberal Arts
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Professor Rawles:-

I am in receipt of your letter of April 1, and am very glad, indeed to write you about Mr. Shorbridge.

He did a part of his graduate work in the University of Minnesota under my direction, and I considered him a very capable man. His thesis on the life of Henry H. Sibley was an excellent piece of work. As you doubtless know, he has had considerable experience in teaching, both in secondary and in normal school and college work. While attending the University of Minnesota he conducted quiz sections in history in a very satisfactory manner.

His training has been, of course, primarily in history but I believe he has done enough work in economics to make good in that field also, although I should naturally regret to see him make the change. I take pleasure in recommending him heartily for your position.

Very truly yours

B/P

April 7, 1930

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

Dear Shortridge:-

I received a letter from
Rawles and wrote to him promptly, giving
you a good recommendation.

I shall be rather sorry
to see you go over to the field of econo-
mics, but the financial aspects of the sit-
uation certainly have to be considered.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 10 1920

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 6, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- Perhaps you are wondering how I came out on the Indiana University proposition. Well, I received an offer from Indiana at \$300 above my salary here and decided to accept it, but when I presented my resignation here they came back at me with an offer \$500 above the Indiana offer if I would remain here. Of course, I accepted the Louisville offer. As my chief object in the proposed change was a better salary, I saw no reason for changing from History under the circumstances. In the long run the Indiana proposition might have been better, but I have to live now as well as after while. They also told me that I could be the sole judge as to what work and how much of it I did here, so there was not much more that I could ask for.

I appreciate the help of my friends, including yourself, just as much as if I had gone. The episode meant a gain of \$800 for me for next year, so I think it was worth while.

I was sorry that I did not get to Greencastle last week, but I believe Dr. Raney told you why. I hope to go to the American Historical Association meeting this winter.

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

May 10, 1920

Professor Wilson P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

I am delighted at the outcome of your flirtation with Indiana. You are certainly to be congratulated, not only upon the salary increase but also upon the opportunity to remain in your chosen field and upon the recognition of the value of your services to Louisville.

The Michigan Historical Commission has just issued a volume of its University Series containing two monographs, one entitled "Michigan Fur Trade" by Ida Johnson, and the other "Pere Marquette Railroad" by Paul Ivey. Fuller has sent me a copy of this book for review in the Minnesota History Bulletin and I should like to have you review the fur trade study. The other one has no particular interest for us and may be ignored, except that it might be worth while to criticise the practice of putting two separate studies in the same volume.

If you are willing to undertake to do this review, let me know and I will send the book on to you.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 15 1920

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

May 12, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- In reply to your letter of May 10, I shall be very glad to review the monograph on the Fur Trade in the Michigan Series. I have my work of the year completed now except final examinations and can do this before going to West Virginia.

I am glad that the situation here turned out as it did and that I am to remain in the history field. I am also glad that you think I did well to remain.

I have another bit of good news too, at least it is to all of us here. We have what we all believe to be the finest little baby girl in the Blue Grass country. She was born Friday May 7 and she and her mamma are doing very nicely down at Norton's Hospital. This is why I was not at the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting at Greencastle.

Hoping to receive the volume you want me to review, I am,

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge.

May 18, 1930

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

Dear Shortridge:-

Hearty congratulations on the addition to your family. I am very glad indeed to know about it and consider that you had an adequate excuse for not attending the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting.

The Michigan volume has already been sent to you by parcel post. In writing your review of it, I will be glad to have you keep in mind especially the fact that the field of our Bulletin is Minnesota history and that it is intended primarily for Minnesota readers.

Sincerely yours

B/P

West Virginia University

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

JAMES MORTON CALLAHAN
OLIVER PERRY CHITWOOD
CHARLES HENRY AMBLER
CHESTER PENN HIGBY

July 3, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- Enclosed you will find the review that I promised to do for you. It is a little later than I thought I would have it ready, but hope that it has not been any inconvenience to you to have it so.

Half of my time is up here at West Virginia and I am enjoying it very much. I am giving a course in Economic History of the United States and an advanced course on Recent History of the United States. My classes are much larger than at Louisville in the advanced work and it is consequently more interesting. My advanced course is made up of seniors and graduates, one of whom has done graduate work at Chicago. I have found several good students here.

Ambler is not here this summer and that fact is responsible, I think, for me being here. Ambler is at the University of Texas this summer. He has been doing extension work exclusively, except summers, since he has been at West Virginia, but beginning next year will be located here at the University. They have a good institution here. As everywhere it is growing rapidly and calls for more equipment &c.

I hope that you are having a very pleasant summer in Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

JUL 13 1920

West Virginia University

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

JAMES MORTON CALLAHAN
OLIVER PERRY CHITWOOD
CHARLES HENRY AMBLER
CHESTER PENN HIGBY

July 10, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- Perhaps I had better report progress in regard to the publication of my thesis, although there does not seem to be much progress to report. At least you will know that I am not entirely forgetful of the matter. I have corresponded with several publishers and have submitted the manuscript to one or two with very much the same result. They say that the initial cost of bringing a book out at present prices of materials is so great that they are accepting only those manuscripts of which they feel confident of a wide sale immediately. The others they are holding back until prices come down, if they do. Publishers seem to be like everyone else in that they hope costs will come down. Howe told me that they might be in position to consider the publication of my manuscript in the fall, although it would depend somewhat upon market conditions at the time. I shall keep the matter moving along as best I can and if anything develops I shall let you know. From what the publishers say the cost of bringing it out makes it almost prohibitive at present prices of materials. If the inflation does come out of things it would be much better from a financial standpoint to let the matter wait, unless the University feels like insisting that it be done notwithstanding.

Hoping that you are having a pleasant summer, I am,

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

July 17, 1920

Professor Wilson P. Shortridge
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Dear Shortridge:-

I received your letter of July 10 concerning the prospects of the publication of your thesis. I think you are right that the best thing to do at present is to let the matter wait. The cost of printing is certainly exorbitant just now. I don't think there is any danger of the University getting excited about the matter, but will talk with Ford about it when I see him which will probably not be until fall.

Your review of the Michigan book was duly received and will appear in the May Bulletin which is now in press. Many thanks for your cooperation. The February Bulletin which was mailed a few days ago went to your Louisville address.

Sincerely yours

B/P

OCT 14 1920

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Oct. 11, 1920.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,

Minnesota Historical Society,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:-Today I came across a letter that I had written to you some weeks ago and had forgotten to mail. It was about my dues and the volume of Collections. I am enclosing check for dues and would like to have the volume in it is not too late.

We are starting a new year with good prospects. My classes are all much larger than ever before, especially my advanced courses. As my work is exactly what I want it to be I am enjoying it more than ever before.

I am also getting some good experience in the newspaper line. I have been writing editorials for the Courier-Journal now for about a month and am enjoying it very much. I think it is a good experience and especially so on the editorial staff of a paper like the Courier-Journal. I have been having some fun incidentally during the campaign picking politicians up on their wild statements as to what history does or does not prove. My writing is mainly along historical lines although they sometimes inject some politics into my articles. Some have been on the League of Nations. It is certainly interesting work.

Trusting to get the volume and wishing you a good year, I am,

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

Has not
been sent
all Sunday
today

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Have him write a formal
appreciation. I should like some
indication of what he plans to do.
For his own sake publication
ought not to be much longer
delayed.

J. S. Ford,

NOV 8 1920

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Nov. 6, 1920.

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

Dear Buck:- Today I had a letter from the George Banta Publishing Co. to whom I had written regarding the printing of my thesis. The best that I have been able to do is practically prohibitive and I have decided that I had better ask for an extension of time. Dean Ford wrote me last spring that he could extend the time till Jan. 1 without consulting the Committee. I presume by that that it should be put before them by a letter to Dean Ford. If you think this is the best thing to do under the existing high costs of printing I shall do it sometime in the near future.

We had the misfortune to have the University bond issue fail at the election last Tuesday. The proposition was for \$1,000,000 bond issue for buildings for our part of it. The negroes voted solidly against it because they are not admitted and the indifference of some whites caused it to fail. I thought prospects were very good here for building up a first class institution. I am not sure now that it is worth waiting for. It will be two years before it can be resubmitted and that would mean four or five years before we could be in satisfactory quarters. I think, therefore, that I shall look about for another position. If you hear of anything between now and next spring I would appreciate it very much if you would keep me in mind. I hope to attend the Washington meeting this year and the Mississippi Valley meeting at Madison next spring. Perhaps I may hear of something in this way. I do not feel like this is the place to stay in when there is an indifference like this to education.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

I am still writing editorials for the Courier-Journal. We tried to throw up a few sand bags to keep Kentucky from sliding north of the Ohio river, but were only partly successful. Tennessee did slide past us and Kentucky has apparently elected a Republican to the Senate. I put in the best licks I could for the League of Nations but felt all along that it was a hopeless task. I cared nothing for Cox and as far as he is concerned I am content to see him stay at home the next four years. I only wish there was someone other than Harding and with a slightly different attitude towards the League.

I am getting some good experience in writing for the Courier, but I have wondered if such writing would really get me anywhere in history work. Of course, it is never known just who writes the editorials on a large city paper. It might be worth something to say that I had done work of this sort, but there is nothing to show for it that would help in looking for another position.

If you will advise me as to what is best about the thesis I shall ask for an extension if that is what you approve. I hope that you are having a good year at Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge

November 13, 1930

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

Dear Shertridge:-

Your letter of November 6 was duly received and I have talked the matter over somewhat hurriedly with Dean Ford. He suggests that you write a formal application for extension of time, but says that he would like some indication of what you plan to do about it; that is, when can you expect to have it published. He thinks that, for your own sake, publication ought not to be delayed much longer. I agree with this, but I realize fully the difficulties in view of the present exorbitant cost of printing.

I was interested in what you have to say about the situation at the University of Louisville, and am sorry that the prospects do not appear to be better there. If I hear of anything that I think would appeal to you, I will let you know. It must have been interesting to have a somewhat active part in the political game, even though on the losing side.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Professor Shortridge took his doctor's degree at the University of Minnesota several years ago, writing his thesis under my direction. While doing graduate work, he also served as an instructor in the department. His teaching did not come under my observation, but I understand from other members of the department that it was very satisfactory. In his graduate work he showed himself a thorough and capable student, and his thesis is, in my opinion, a very creditable work. Since leaving the University, he has taught at the State Normal School at Winona, Minnesota, and at the University of Louisville, and I understand that he has given satisfaction at both of these places. Mr. Shortridge's character and personal appearance are all that could be desired, and I feel sure that he would make good in any college or normal school position to which he might be appointed.

Associate professor of history, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 5, 1921

April, 1, 1921

Professor Wilson Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

Thank you very
much for sending me the magazine con-
taining your excellent article on
Commission Government.

I hope that you are
planning to attend the Mississippi
Valley Historical Association at
Madison. I had some doubt about my
going for a while because the meeting
comes just at the end of our legisla-
tive session, but the prospects are now
that our hearings will be over before
the dates of the meeting.

Sincerely yours

B/O

June 4, 1921

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

Dear Shortridge:-

Did you ever write to Richard G. Badger of The Gorham Press, 194 Beylston St., Boston, 17, with reference to the publication of your thesis? The reason I ask at this time is that I received a short time ago, a letter signed by Ruth Hill, editor-in-chief, for Badger, stating that the firm is "considering the addition of a few titles to our Studies in History," and inquiring if I have any manuscript to submit.

I trust that everything is going well with you. You will be interested to know that we have four people taking the preliminary examinations for the doctor's degree in history this year at the University; also that the Historical Society's appropriation was increased from twenty-five to forty thousand dollars a year. This is not all we asked or needed but it will help materially. Unfortunately the Senate Committee saw fit to restrict the amount which we can spend for salaries, with the result that we are not able both to increase salaries and to make additions to the staff. We have decided in favor of the former.

Sincerely yours

B/P

JUN 9 1921

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

June 6, 1921.

Supt. Solon J. Buck,

Minnesota Historical Society,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:- Your letter of June 4 was received today. I have had some correspondence with Richard Badger regarding my thesis, but did not submit the manuscript to him. Today when I received your letter it happened that I was talking with the Professor of English here about Badger. Our English Professor submitted the manuscript of his thesis to Badger some weeks ago and informed me that Badger wanted a deposit of \$2200 before he would begin work on it. Of course, the manuscript was withdrawn.

I have given a good deal of thought to this subject and would like very much to get it out. The best statement I could get out of a publisher was Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland, and they wanted a deposit of \$1000, with probably no prospects of every seeing it again. I have also thought some of having it ^{printed} published in regular thesis form by The George Banta Co. They made a rough estimate of \$450, but with falling prices I think they would do better than that, especially if the strike is settled in the lower direction. What do you think of doing it that way? This would mean that they would run off the copies for the University together with a few for my own use. At recent printing prices it almost took one's breath merely to ask about prices, and publishers have been slow about taking on anything except what they believed to be a very

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

quick seller. Of course, this was good business. It certainly would not be wise to invest very heavily in material and labor costs on a slow selling work in view of the fact that both items were likely to decline.

I have also wondered where the University had its work done when it used to have funds for publication, and whether it might not be possible to get a better price in that way than I could do myself. If we could get prices within reach I would like to get the work off and satisfy the last requirement which the University has against me. Anyone who has to do with printing, however, knows what the situation has been for the last two or three years.

I was much interested about what you said regarding the University and Historical Society. I wonder if I know the four candidates at the University. I presume that Mrs. Blakey is one of them, but I can't even make a guess as to the others. Perhaps Miss Thompson has remained on the job and is coming up now. I am much interested in Minnesota's welfare. It was also good news about your appropriation for the Society, although it would have been better if the Senate had tied no string to the appropriation.

I am leaving the last of this week for another summer at West Virginia University. My work is about the same as last year, with \$75 more salary for the six weeks. My family will not go with me this year.

Wishing you a pleasant summer, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. S. Shorridge

West Va. University,
Morgantown, West Virginia.

October 12, 1921.

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

Dear Shortridge:-

I am returning to you herewith the application for membership in the American Association of University Professors. I don't think there is any requirement that the nominators be from different institutions or even that they be from a different institution than that of the nominee.

I am returning to you also your correspondence with printers, which you sent to me in August. I have had a talk with Ford about the publication of your thesis and we both think that you ought to proceed with it now as soon as possible. The figures of Banta and the Torch Press seem to be not unreasonable and it is quite possible that you might get a lower figure now. Both of these firms are reliable and do good work.

Mr. Alvord went through our copy of your thesis last spring, at my request, and he makes a suggestion with which I agree. It is, that it would be desirable for you to go through it rather carefully making stylistic revisions and if possible, have some one else who is experienced in work of this sort, go through it for you. Possibly there is some one in the rhetoric department at your institution who would be willing to do this. I always have some one go over everything I write in this way before publishing and our editorial department has revised Dr. Folwell's manuscript extensively.

I am very glad to learn of the progress which your department is making. It seems to me that you have an excellent opportunity at Louisville and I am sure that you will make the most of it. Your class in history of the West is fifty per cent larger than mine.

Sincerely yours

SB-MP

Morgantown, W. Va.
July 28, 1921.

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

Dear Buck: - Enclosed you will find the latest thing I have been able to get hold of regarding possible publication of my thesis. I would like very much to have your opinion regarding it and to know whether or not this is the best way to meet the publication requirement which the University has against me. This estimate is considerably lower than I was able to get a year or so ago when I tried Baer's. I wrote to Badger again but could get nothing except by virtually assuming the financial end of the whole thing. It is virtually a printing rather than a publishing proposition with him. I also wrote to Arthur H. Clark Co. again but have not as yet heard from them. I shall let you know if I hear anything favorable and want to hear from them before I would do anything about it. I would much rather, of course, bring it out with a publisher but so far I have not found one except by making

a cash deposit of from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
I am anxious to get it off and thus
meet the last requirement against
me at Minnesota. I would have had it
off before this except for prohibitive
prices. This quotation from Santa
indicates that I acted wisely in
waiting until prices came down
somewhat. I shall be glad to know
what you think of this.

I complete a very pleasant term's
work at West Virginia University
tomorrow and shall leave at
once for Louisville. It has been
pretty hot part of the time but
think it is that way everywhere
this year. I know one of the men
in Agriculture who came here from
Minnesota last fall and whose
wife is now in Minnesota and he
says that his wife writes that it
is hot even in Minnesota. That
being true you can imagine what I
shall experience in Louisville.

Trusting to hear from you and hoping
that you are having a good summer
even if a hot one, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Wilson P. Shortridge.

Address:—

1406 Hepburn Ave.,
Louisville, Ky.

July 23, 1921

Professor W. P. Shortridge
1406 Hepburn Ave.,
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

I am returning herewith the enclosures which accompanied your letter of July 21.

My advice is for you to proceed with Banta. I think it much better to have a book privately printed than to have it handled by a publisher who makes the author bear the risk. Although I am unable to tell from either your letter or Banta's how large an edition they are figuring on, still it strikes me that their price is a reasonable one. Our experience with Banta is that they do good work if closely watched. The paper which they suggest for cover and stock seems to me entirely satisfactory. I think that you might be able to dispose of quite a number of copies to members of the Minnesota Historical Society, libraries in Minnesota, and college libraries through the country.

Your information that it has been hot here is correct, but it has been very pleasant for the past week or ten days.

We are exerting ourselves to the utmost to get the first volume of Folwell out, and have hopes of seeing it in about a month.

I have just run through my file of unanswered letters and find yours of June 6. My excuse for not replying before must be that it has been absolutely impossible for me to keep up with my correspondence lately. You inquired as to the candidates for the doctorate at the University. They are Blegen, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Droitcoeur, (formerly Miss Talbot) and Miss Lynskey.

I am glad to know that you have had a pleasant summer session and trust that things are going well at the University of Louisville. If I can be of any further assistance to you in connection with the publication of your thesis, let me know.

Sincerely yours

B/P

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN
LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

August 8, 1921.

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

Dear Buck:- Since writing you ~~since~~^{before} I left West Virginia I have heard from three or four other places, including The Arthur H. Clark Co. and The Torch Press, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, regarding the printing of my thesis. The enclosed letter from Clark is typical as to what they say regarding the printing situation, and Clark frankly advises against printing at the present time.

I would like to know just how you and Dean Ford feel about the publication of my thesis and whether other men with degrees there are having printing done in spite of the present situation. I want to do what you people want done, and I certainly do not want to be in a class by myself. If you prefer that the thesis be printed now I shall proceed with the work. I certainly appreciate the consideration that you people have already shown me and do not wish to impose on your time and patience by delaying publication if you prefer that it be done at once. As Superintendent of the Historical Society I know that you are thoroughly familiar with the printing situation and I am willing to do what you say is best under the circumstances.

Very truly yours,

W.P. Shortridge

1406 Hepburn Ave.

P.S. Enclosed you will find check for dues for Historical Society.

August 11, 1921.

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

Dear Shortridge:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 8. The question which you raise is one which I would want to talk over with Ford before answering and he is not here at present. I will probably have an opportunity to talk with him in two or three weeks, however, and will then write you more fully.

Having returned to you the letter from Banta which you enclosed with your letter of July 21, I do not have his proposition at hand. It might be well, therefore, for you to send me his figures with a statement of the size of the edition which he proposed to bring out. I should like to give this information to Ford when I take up the matter with him.

I am inclined to think that the printing situation is not so bad everywhere as Clark depicts it.

Sincerely yours,

B/N

AUG 18 1921

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN

LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Aug. 16, 1921.

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

Dear Buck:-In reply to your letter I am enclosing the letters which I received from Banta and The Torch Press regarding my thesis. Banta's letter was regarding 100 copies with price for additional copies. This makes the two propositions about the same, as the Torch Press quotation was for 200 copies. There would probably not be much difference between them.

I shall be glad to hear from you after you have talked it over with Dean Ford and shall do my best to meet your wishes in the matter.

Very truly yours,

William R. Shortridge

OCT 1 1921

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN
LOUISVILLE, KY.

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Sept. 29, 1921.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:- Enclosed you will find nomination blank for membership in the American Association of University Professors which I would like for you to sign as one of the nominators, if you care to do so. There are other members at Minnesota who might sign it for me if more than one from the same institution can be nominators or I can get someone at Wisconsin, Indiana, or West Virginia to sign for the other nominators.

We are starting the biggest year here that we have ever had. The enrollment is 50% above that of last year. The History Department is crowded to the limit. I have two large sections of general American History, a class of fifteen in the History of the West, and a class of ten or twelve in Diplomatic History. Prospects are good for an interesting year's work.

Thanking you for the favor I am asking, if you care to do it, and hoping that you have a good year at Minnesota, I am,

Very truly yours,

W.P. Shortridge.

OCT 26 1921

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
JOHN L. PATTERSON, LL. D., LITT. D., DEAN
LOUISVILLE, KY.DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
W. P. SHORTBRIDGE
R. S. COTTELL

Oct. 24, 1921.

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

Dear Buck:- In accordance with your recent suggestion I am going over the manuscript of my thesis again and I shall have someone go over it from the standpoint of English. Then I shall have two copies made of the revised manuscript and submit to both Banta and the Torch Press and ask for prices. I intend to proceed with publication as you and Dean Ford suggest. The manuscript has already been improved in several ways, I think, and some of the things that Professor Alvord found in your copy of it removed. I hope that it will ^{be} satisfactory when done. Perhaps it would be impossible to get much better prices than can be done now. At least it will be a relief to have it over with and all the requirements at the University met.

At Krey's suggestion two years ago I have been working along on a high school text book in American History. I did quite a little on it last ~~year~~ summer, but cannot make much headway during the year. I have also been working some on Kentucky politics about the time of the Civil War, thinking that it might develop into a paper of some sort. I shall be glad to get the thesis off so that I can do some of the other things. This year I have been asked to give some extension lectures in American History for Indiana University in connection with my work here.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Shortbridge.

November 1, 1921

Professor Wilson P. Shortridge
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Shortridge:-

I have your letter of October 24 and am glad to know that you are getting interested in Kentucky history. I have taken the liberty of suggesting to Fuller of Michigan, who is chairman of the M. V. H. A. program committee, that you might possibly be persuaded to read a paper on some Kentucky subject.

I trust that you are seizing every opportunity to urge upon Kentucky people the desirability of getting a scientific, state supported historical organization at work in Kentucky. There is a wealth of intensely interesting and valuable material for Kentucky history in existence and it ought to be published in a series of volumes like the Illinois Historical Collections.

My impression is that the Filson Club has done the best work of any historical institution in Kentucky. If you have not already got into touch with it, you ought to do so at the first opportunity. I fear that the Kentucky Historical Society will be an obstacle rather than a help to any movement for the scientific exploitation of history of the state.

Sincerely yours

B/P