



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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The Mississippi Valley Historical Review

CLARENCE W. ALVORD
MANAGING EDITOR

218 LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

May thirty-first
1922

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

My dear Solon:-

I enclose herewith a letter from Libby. The situation is becoming acute there and if you can write for him a general recommendation, I hope that you will do so. I am not asking Ford to do it because I happen to know Ford's opinion. He has carried his prejudice toward Libby since the years he was associated with him at Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours

C
W
A

E

June 6, 1922

Professor C. W. Alvord
56 Clarence Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Alvord:-

I am returning
to you herewith the letter from
Libby, thinking that you might want
to preserve it. ✓

Sincerely yours

B/P

June 26, 1922

Professor C. W. Alvord
56 Clarence Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Clarence:-

Some time ago I told you that Shortridge had indicated that he would like to give a paper at the meeting of the American Historical Association in New Haven. I have just come across his letter and it occurs to me that I had better call your attention to the matter, and especially to the subject which he suggests. It is "Henry Watterson and the Reunion of the Sections." I should think that this might be a very interesting paper, and it would certainly be appropriate for the joint session with the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

His address is Professor Wilson P. Shortridge, University of Louisville. He may not be there this summer, but mail addressed there would doubtless be forwarded to him.

Sincerely yours

(B/P

Abstract of a Paper Entitled "Minnesota as a Pawn in International Politics, 1783-1818," Read by Professor C. W. Alvord of the University of Minnesota at an Open Meeting of the Council of the Minnesota Historical Society, Monday Evening, October 9, 1922.

Mr. Alvord's paper recalled the olden days when this part of the country was still in its primitive state and savages roamed the primeval forest and when the seekers after furs were the only visitors from the more civilized communities. Few people realized at that time the value of the territory. At this period the northern and western boundaries were established for the United States by the treaty which closed the American Revolution. The selection of the boundaries by the British prime minister, Lord Shelburne, and Benjamin Franklin was based on purely humanitarian considerations; they hoped to prevent future international disputes. As early as 1783 there were men who had a vision of the future unprotected boundary between two great countries.

The treaty was received with dissatisfaction by many parties in Great Britain. In particular those men who were interested in the fur trade, whether they lived in Canada or the mother country, kept up a continual agitation in the hope of taking from the United States some part of the Great Lakes region or at least of securing access to the navigable waters of the Mississippi river, the free navigation of which had been secured to British subjects under the terms of the treaty of 1783.

The successive negotiations looking to this end, which extended to the close of the war of 1812, were explained in some detail by the speaker. During President Washington's administration Alexander Hamilton was persuaded by the British minister that some rectification of the northern boundary was necessary and proposed at a cabinet meeting that the northern boundary be so altered that it run from Lake Superior to below the Falls of St. Anthony. This would give to the British the access to the navigable waters they desired and would also correct the error made in 1783 in the northwest boundary because the negotiators had believed that the Mississippi extended northward beyond the line drawn westward from the Lake of the Woods. Thomas Jefferson opposed successfully this attempt to give away part of the country's territory.

At the time of John Jay's negotiations in 1794 and during the opening years of the 19th century the subject was brought up again and again without a successful issue. The British thought that their successes in the war of 1812 warranted an even more drastic rectification of the boundary and during the negotiations at the treaty of Ghent demanded the erection of an extensive Indian state in the Great Lakes region, which should include northwestern Ohio and all Indiana and Illinois. The advisability of prolonging the war in order to secure some such cession of territory from the United States was even seriously considered. Better counsels prevailed, however, and the treaty was made without any change of boundaries. Thus finally the thought of Benjamin Franklin and Lord Shelburne, those fervent lovers of humanity and international peace, became the established policy of two great countries: a boundary of peace was established in place of the customary boundary of war.

Alvord

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July 11, 1923

Professor C. W. Alvord
Department of History
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Clarence:-

Just a note to inquire about extra copies of the Bulletin containing your paper on "Mississippi Valley Problems and the American Revolution." I suppose you received your copy before you left. If you want to send me a list of names and addresses of people whom you would like to have receive copies, I will be glad to have them sent out from here.

Stevens writes that he is shipping us about three hundred dollars worth of photostats of fur trade material from Montreal. He has turned down the Detroit job as editor for the Burton Historical Collection and has been made an assistant professor at Dartmouth. We are expecting him here in a few days to work for the War Records Commission.

I haven't seen Mrs. Alvord since you left but Elizabeth was over to call on her and the relatives. It has been almost too hot for existence most of the time, of which you are doubtless aware.

Sincerely yours

B/P

The Mississippi Valley Historical Review

218 LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

MANAGING EDITORS:
CLARENCE W. ALVORD
LESTER B. SHIPPEE

file

C Alvord

University Club
Madison, Wis
July 31, 1923

My dear Solon:

After a long siege of a summer cold, I have begun digging into the ^{circumstances} mail and must to my chagrin have found your kind letter of long ago.

No I haven't seen a copy of the Bulletin. It didn't come before I left. If you haven't done so already, you might send a copy to Paxson, Miss Kellogg, and E. B. Greene. I don't think of any others just now.

Except for the cold, my stay here has been very pleasant. Every body has been most kind and every body has entertained me in one way or another. I'll tell you about it soon. I leave here Saturday evening. Love to the family.
Sincerely
Clarence

TELEGRAMS
THACKERAY WESTCENT LONDON
TELEPHONES MUSEUM 1230-1231

Return to G. B.

NOV 20 1923

THACKERAY HOTEL

(OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM)

GREAT RUSSELL STREET

LONDON

W.C. 1

November 6, 1923

My dear Solon:

I have been meaning to write to you for many weeks, at least apparently, for it seems months since I left God's own country, for this land of poor electric lights, antiquated bath rooms, and utensils in the bed room that passed away with us when we emerged from frontier conditions. I have had longings for our much despised sputter, for I brought with me a cold from the ship and I enter a public room i.e. "the lounge" with trepidation lest I shall raise phlegm. In case I do I must hasten to the front door, the nearest toilet - half a mile away - use one of my diminishing supply of

handkerchiefs, or else swallow with-later
and more disastrous results. Meanwhile
I shiver with clammy cold even though
I have heavier ones on than I ever
wore in Minneapolis. The result of
all these experiences is that I sit
before my gas range in my room
and see how rapidly my shivering
worth of gas is consumed.

From the above you may judge that
I have not been particularly happy.
Your historical inference would be
as sound as usual. I have been
fairly miserable ever since I put
my foot on the President Adams.
The passage over was rough, oh!
very rough. We had all varieties
of weather, calms, storms, fog, and
hail. The last two days with land
in sight much of the time were
the worse. The waves swept over
the hurricane deck occasionally.
With all that I wasn't very sick, in
fact I never lost any meals either

TELEGRAMS
THACKERAY WESTCENT LONDON
TELEPHONES MUSEUM 1230-1231

THACKERAY HOTEL.

(OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM)

GREAT RUSSELL STREET

LONDON

W.C. 1

by not partaking or by depositing
them in the sea. Every day I smoked
some, the first two days in moderation,
still I did smoke without much
enjoyment to myself, I'll confess.

We have been hunting flats ever
since we arrived and yesterday we
contracted to take one for 6 months
at Hamstead Heath. I am so sick
of traveling and living in hotels that
I have given up all intention of
going to Italy this winter. At least
that is my present intention. If
my courage comes back to me I'll
sublet and go. But at present I
feel as if I would never want
to wander again. We have a very
nice flats, as such things go. There is

plumbing, such as would dignify the
oldest house in Merinaopolis. With
patience, however, I expect to be able
to negotiate a bath, whenever the
house is warm enough. I suspect
that the condition will not occur
until next May. Well! even then I
shall be cleaner than my esteemed
ancestor who left this island in
1638. My dear Solon, too much bathing
is unhealthy. Think of the virility of
the lower classes.

My permanent address will remain
the University Union, 50 Russell Sq. W.C.,
but our present abiding place - we
enter upon it tomorrow - is 19 Hamstead
Hill Gardens, London, N.W. We are
situated close to the Heath which has
been left very much as Nature made
it.

I have made no attempts to see
anybody, but Herbert Hall found us
and we have had tea with him and
his wife at Lincoln Inns and this
evening we dine with the Villards

TELEGRAMS
THACKERAY WESTCENT LONDON
TELEPHONES MUSEUM 1230-1231

THACKERAY HOTEL

(OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM)

GREAT RUSSELL STREET

LONDON

W.C. 1

and then go to the theatre. Also Charnwood
gambled me out to the English Speaking
Union, where he presided at the unveiling
of a portrait of that illustrious
statesman, Warren B. Harding - God
save the marks. I gave up a guinea
to join the union so that I can
watch the propagandists at work,
and oh they are working to win
us over.

We had a rather notable company on
shipboard, some of whom have clung
together since reaching London. Prof. Snelling,
of U. of Penn. (in English) Archibald
Henderson of N. C., Haskell, editor of
Kansas City Star, a very interesting
and cultured man. On the whole the
passengers were all interesting.

I must close now, for tea is about

to be served, till Elizabeth I take tea
for breakfast even. This is not due to
the remains of my puritan conscience,
but to the badness of the ~~tea~~^{coffee}. I thought
I had managed to drink every variety
of poor coffee, but I find that my
experience could still be enlarged
and I confess to my failure to meet
the situation. One reason we decided
to take the flat was our longing for
a cup of coffee. I haven't tasted a
good one since I left New York.

Eders joins me in love to you
and Elizabeth, also to all members of
the department and to ~~the~~ beloved
associates of the dining club.

That manuscript containing copies
of pamphlets is valuable. They are all
Samuel Wharton's Vandalia pamphlets
with editorial notes, notes only fairly
good. Keep it for the present and probably
forever.

Sincerely
Clarence

March 26, 1924

Mr. Clarence W. Alvord
19 Hamstead Hill Gardens
London, W. U. England

Dear Clarence:-

There are several reasons why I have been so dilatory about answering your very interesting letter of November 6; none of them very good ones, however, and it is hardly worth while to bother you with them. The principal one doubtless is my utter inability to "take my pen in hand" and write a letter; After a while I got to the point where I was ashamed to write, and finally I decided that the only way I could ever get a letter written was to dictate it, so here goes.

We have, of course, heard from you indirectly through other people who have received letters, and have gathered that both you and Idress are enjoying life in many ways. The thing about which no information seems to be available, however, is the work which you are accomplishing. We all hope that you will soon enlighten the world with some of the results of your researches.

I have been devoting a lot of time during the last three months to the early British Period in the upper northwest, 1760-1774, in connection with an intensive course which I gave during the winter term. You may be interested to know that, in connection with this work, I am for the first time reading your Mississippi Valley in British Politics straight through from the beginning. I am now in the second volume and am inclined to think that the committee was justified in awarding you the Pulitzer Prize. We have dug up a little new material on Rogers and Carver, and that, together with what Elliot has recently published in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, clears up the relations between these two men very nicely and also makes it certain that Carver's Journal as published is quite unreliable, despite what you said in your article in The Nation. Elliot published some extracts from the original of Carver's Journal in the British Museum, and we are thinking of getting transcripts or photostats of most of this Carver material. Miss Nute has written about it to a Miss Ruth A. Fisher whose name was given her by Jameson. I may possibly put together some material about Rogers and Carver for a paper which Dr. Schmidt has asked me to read before the Chicago Historical Society.

Doubtless you have seen Ford and have learned something about the situation at the University. I note by last night's paper that Ford has an offer of the presidency of the University of Texas. Since he left the possibility has developed

C. W. A. 3/26/24--2

of our adding Bemis, the author of the book on Jay's Treaty, to the department and he will probably come out to look us over in the near future. There is also the possibility of adding a young Ph. D. from Cornell who has been working under Notestein and would make use of our seventeenth century collection.

The situation with regard to the managing editorship of the Review is working around about as I thought it would. As chairman of the executive committee I asked the members to vote by mail for a sub-committee of three to canvass the situation, and the result was the selection of Connelley, Lindley, and myself as chairman. I did not go to the Columbus meeting but a meeting of the executive committee was held there and some general discussion developed. There was apparently much gossip of various sorts, some of which has been repeated to me. It was rumored that I was trying to keep the Review in Minnesota in order that Elizabeth might keep her job, and it was suggested that the editorial expenses were much too high.

Soon after the Columbus meeting I received letters from Boucher and Shambaugh, copies of which, with my replies, I am sending to you herewith. These are confidential, of course. I am enclosing also a copy of a financial statement which I compiled and sent out with the second circular letter to members of the executive committee and the editorial board asking for further suggestions. It seems pretty clear to me that Boucher is after the job himself, but I don't think now that there is any chance of his getting it. Shambaugh has said that he would not take it, and the indications are that the selection will be made from Cole, Paxson, ~~and~~ Shippee. Marshall is another possibility, but the fact that he is now secretary of the Missouri Historical Society (Did you know this? It happened in November.) reduces his availability. Shippee is not at all keen about the job and a while ago I thought that he might refuse to take it. If, however, we can relieve him of some University work next year, I think he will be willing to go on with the Review. Whatever happens, Elizabeth and Mary will not continue the editorial work, and, if the Review remains here, I think Shippee will attempt to arrange for one person to do all the editorial work and do it at his office or in a special room in the new library if we can get it. She could then relieve him of much of the work which he has to do now and could probably get more work out of the graduate student assigned to the Review than he succeeds in doing.

The transcript of pamphlets with notes, etc., which you left in your office, I have brought over to the Historical Society for safe keeping. I cleaned the dirt off from it and put it in some boxes with a note to the effect that it is your property. On looking into it I concluded that it was the copy for the volume of Collections of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association which you planned some years ago. Do you suppose that some arrangement could be made for the completion of the editorial work? If so, I believe that it would be possible to get it published.

C. W. A. 3/26/24--3

I am thinking of suggesting to the Executive committee and the board of editors of the Association that the Proceedings be dropped and the cost thereof be used for editorial work, etc., on volumes of Collections. It seems to me that the Association would be the logical organization to undertake to publish a definitive collection of documents on the French regime in the Mississippi Valley and Upper Lakes Region. What would you think of Miss Kellogg for editor of such a series?

We are well at home and Roger is developing prodigiously. Elizabeth is trying to write some stories of Minnesota history for use in the grades. There is quite a demand for such a book as a result of a new curriculum published by the State Department of Education. If she knew I were writing, I am sure she would join me in sending our best regards to you and Idress.

Let me hear from you soon and I will solemnly promise to answer promptly.

Sincerely yours

B/P

April 11, 1924

Mr. Clarence W. Alvord
50 Russell Square
American University Union
London, England

Dear Clarence:-

Herewith I am sending you copies of another batch of correspondence concerning the managing editorship which you may find entertaining. I have not replied to Boucher's letter as yet. I asked Mrs. Paine for copies of her letters to him to which he referred and she replied that the files had been taken to storage by mistake but that she would get them out and send them to me at the first opportunity.

We thought we were going to add Bemis to our department on a combination arrangement with the department of Political Science and he came out to give us a visit, but he has decided to accept a position with the George Washington University instead in order to be near the archives.

Stephenson has leave for next year to take Wittke's place at Ohio; Wittke takes Schlesinger's place at Iowa, and Schlesinger goes to Harvard for the year.

I have read with much interest your account of the Shelburne Papers in the publication of the Institute of Historical Research. I hope to get over to Ann Arbor some time and do some work in these papers myself.

Stevens is going to do some work for us and for Pease in the Canadian archives on a joint arrangement and then come on here to teach in the second session of the summer school.

We have ordered photostats of the Carver material in the British Museum and I hope to be able to clear up the various Carver mysteries before long. I have given up the idea of preparing a lecture for the Chicago Historical Society this spring, but hope to do it next fall.

All your friends here are well so far as I know and we trust that you and Idress are the same. At nearly every meeting of the dining club someone asks Krey if he has had any more letters from you.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours

May 2, 1924

American University Union
50 Russell Square
London W. C. 1

My dear Helen:

I give you my permanent address for we are leaving here next week and after a eight-weeking trip we shall settle down for four months in a friend's flat in St James, a much sweller address but it is a bargain flat nevertheless. As a matter of fact it is in the Royal Mens (stables) of St. James Palace, converted into flats. Our next door neighbor almost is the Prince of Wales, but I imagine that we shall see more of his chauffeur than his Royal Highness. You never can tell though; my portrait is hanging today in the Academy in the same room as that of the King. A young artist with whom I became acquainted asked me to sit for him. He made a fine likeness and it was accepted by the Academy. I haven't seen it in state yet, for the opening date is Monday. You can imagine

we going down the earliest possible moment to take a peep at myself. In the course of time the artist will present me with the portrait.

I am glad to learn that you see the Bulletin of the Institute, for I have been meaning to have sent to you a copy of No 1 containing the report on the editing of MSS. It deals with the problem of Medieval MSS for the most part, so another committee on the editing of modern MSS is now setting. Of this I am a member, and it looks at present as if the form and much of the content will be mine. These fellows over here are all medievalists and generally antiquarians. For many meetings I thought that we should miss the whole problem. I finally went over all we had determined remodelled it and wrote a new section on "Listing, Descriptive Cataloguing, and Calendarizing" and for the last two meetings these changes of mine have been discussed and a third meeting or more will be consumed in considering them. For the most part the stuff stands as I wrote or rewrote it. At the next meeting I imagine the real contest will come.

King's College of Uni. of London has asked me to give a short course of lectures to their honor students in history next fall and the University is going to ask me to give a course of public lectures during the same term. Also at the public meeting of the Anglo-American Committee in July I am to read one of the two papers. The subject is "Differentiation in Magazines of History." Seland and Pollard wished this on me, and I am not particularly happy about it. I am giving you all this personal information so you can see how I am being drawn into many activities.

You ask about the writing. At first it was hard to get down to work and there have been many interruptions, so that the MS is not where I hoped it would be, but the progress is both substantial and satisfactory. Learning over here has been a very good thing for me in many ways.

I am very much obliged to you for the letters concerning the editorship of the Review. It must have been trying for you this correspondence with many men of many minds. But it seems to me that opinion is veering around to Shaffer,

and I imagine that the final result of all this agitation will be his election without much opposition. The reading of the letters has been for me like a breeze from the Mississippi Valley itself and I thank you again for the copies.

Idress sends her love to you, Elizabeth, and the baby. I suppose I should write the dog in that grouping. We have had a cat ever since we have been in this flat. She belongs to the caretaker, who is our maid as well.

Kitty adopted us, keeping our constantly burning fires. Two weeks ago she brought into the world a family of three, in my study. Two speedily died, but she and her son still occupy a box under my bookcase much to their enjoyment. She will miss us when we leave.

Most sincerely yours
Clarence

he has no standing in University circles, but his hobby is history. Several years ago, a friend of his ad of mine, now Colonel Mills called his attention to my "Miss Valley etc" and he has studied as no one else has. There isn't a paragraph, hardly a sentence that isn't annotated. He haunts the Public Record Office and has unearthed much new material. Particularly has he interested himself in *Vigernia* ad *Sandalia*. He has never published, though urged by Mills to do so. Mills helps him financially in his studies. I have consulted Mills and we both think that under proper guidance from us both, Thatcher could do a rather remarkable piece of editing. His mind seems to me well fitted for such work. My suggestion is that the MS. be sent to me ad I'll supervise the work. I haven't talked with Thatcher yet but imagine he will jump at the chance. Don't send the MS. until

WALSLEY
QUARRY WOODS
BARLOW

September 29, 1924

My dear Solon:

It is lots of fun to walk down your back lawn, seat yourself in an arm chair, and fish. That is what I can do; and what is more, catch enough fish for dinner. We have taken this cottage (10 rooms) with an acre of ground, gardens of all descriptions, a Shetland pony, a kitten, a black rabbit, 6 hens, ad swans, for as long as we want it. That means until we are frozen out, probably about November 1. At any rate we are enjoying ourselves immensely. A gardener goes with

the cottage, so I have no responsibility in cutting the lawns etc. The cottage lies on an inlet of the Thames, which river is in eight or only fifty yards from our boat house where we have a fleet of three rowboats, a punt, and a canoe. If you were here you could play tennis on an excellent grass court. I haven't tried and probably won't.

This letter is to be an answer to your good long one. First off, I think that the scores the M. V. H. A. can start publishing collections of courses, the better. Such a series would be of much greater value than the Proceedings. The Association can publish much material that would not be done by the local state societies. If you think that you

can find the funds necessary for such an undertaking, I very go to it. As you know my ~~ambition~~ has long been to start just such a series.

Now as to the question of the collection of pamphlets. Here again my opinion has not changed. It would be most acceptable to historians of the American Revolution. A library contains all the pamphlets unless the John Carter Brown has completed its list. Of one of the pamphlets there are only two copies, one at Carter-Brown and one at Illinois. In many ways it is the best of the lot and yet I am the only historian who has read it.

As for the editing of the volume I have one suggestion. Shortly after arriving here I met a Mr. Thoburn, a teacher in a Board school is about an eight grade school. Of course

11
further correspondence, however.

I am most sorry about the disagreeable events connected with the election of managing editor of the Review, though I am not surprised. There have been times when I was conscious of a faction working against me. Evidently that faction has won over Mrs Paine. Her financial needs have driven her to them. I am greatly indebted to you for the protection of my honor, your statements concerning the budget are absolutely correct. I intended to create a position by use of Review money and \$ of Missin subsidy that would be acceptable to a good student who would give half his or her time to the Review. In the end I proposed to develop a full time assistant. All the negotiations concerning this were carried on openly and were

made before I had any idea of
coming to England. The idea that
I was trying to get money for Shippen
is absurd. I am very sorry for Mrs
Paine and shall regret if steps are
taken to deprive her of her small
salary. Still the interests of the Association
must come first. I have never had
any exaggerated opinion of Mrs. Paine's
qualifications and was not in favor of
giving her the job after Paine's death. That
was largely Paine's work. Still she has
done rather better than I expected she
would and believe that her removal
would bring trouble to the Association.

Dress is about to start to Marlow
to shop and so I will close and give
her this letter to mail. She joins me
in love to you both. We are both most
interested in the news of ~~or~~ coming
event, give Elizabeth a kiss from

both of us.

Most sincerely yours

Caroline

October 4, 1924

Dr. C. W. Alvord
50 Russell Square
American University Union
London, England

Dear Clarence:-

Under separate cover I am sending you two extra copies of the long delayed double number of the Minnesota History Bulletin for August-November, 1922, containing your address at our Duluth meeting. The index to volume 4 is to be published separately and then the gap will be filled.

If you would care to have any more copies of this number of the Bulletin, let us know and they will be supplied, or you might send us a list of people to whom you would like to have copies sent.

Lester let me read a letter from you recently and I am hoping to receive one myself before long. We are all well and I take it from your letter to Lester that the same is true of you and Idress. At any rate I hope so.

Sincerely yours

B/P



A distinguished historian and another.

Visiting Lord Fitzmaurice, statesman
and historian. He was hand-amer in
his youth. We are still in our cottage
on the Phames and if you see
cards sent other members of the
Department, you will obtain some
information of our passage

I dress give me the best greetings
Believe me

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TELEPHONE: FLEURUS 23-24

CABLE ADDRESS: AMUNION, PARIS

173, BOULEVARD SAINT-GERMAIN
PARIS (vi^e)

June 16, 1925

*Prof. John F. Buell
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis*

Dear Mr. Buell

Allow me to introduce to you Mr. D. Pasquet, agrégé, Doctor ès-lettres, professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, at the Sorbonne. Besides a large number of articles in important historical magazines, he has written an essay on the origin of the House of Commons, which is now being translated for the Cambridge University Press. An important book, London and its Workers, and the first volume of the Political and social history of the American people, the first study of this kind by a French author. He has been awarded a fellowship by the trustees of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation to enable him to visit America and prepare the material for his second volume, not only in libraries of all kinds, but from contact with the actual life and labor of the people. He also intends to give a few lectures on French contemporary history.

I shall be much obliged if you will help him secure the information he is seeking and introduce him to people of your own and other communities who may be useful to him.

Very sincerely yours

C. W. Howard

JAN 9 1926

The Mississippi Valley Historical Review

218 LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

MANAGING EDITORS:
CLARENCE W. ALVORD
LESTER B. SHIPPEE

Villa Bianca
Dianno Marina
Riviera di Ponente
Italy
December 18, 1925

Dear Solon:

How does that address strike you?

In many ways, it's as good as it sounds.

Villa Bianca is a real house and yard, situated directly on the sea. First comes the stony beach, then a stone wall topped by a cement balustrade with steps to beach. Behind the balustrade is a broad stretch of gravel and then a line of large palms, and the grape arbor and orange plantation. The latter consists of half a dozen small trees with smaller oranges in them. We occupy this gloriousness with ^(no visiting paper) Miss Emily Smith and niece of Minneapolis. And here we shall abide till April 1. Permanent address the Amer. Univ. Union of Paris.

My lecture before the British Academy went off in fine shape. Colonel Mills has prepared maps to illustrate my remarks

The audience was most distinguished. Pollard presided
at Lord Balfour who was in Scotland. Never have
I aroused such enthusiasm by a paper, and I
didn't trouble to Anglo-American Brotherhood
either. Garrison was there and seemed to be delighted.

Merry Xmas to you, Elizabeth, and the
children. This is a Xmas letter instead of the
usual card and the supplement to what
I here say will be found in a letter to
Shippee, which goes by the same mail.

Excuse this paper but we failed to supply
ourselves with paper in Paris, and you can't
buy much of anything here. I have carted a
few sheets of this around with me and thus
now I'll use it up. Certainly for you, it
should arouse memories, pleasant or otherwise.

I read all the correspondence in re the
N. V. H. A. and am very much obliged to you
for sending it to me. Please help me informed
as well as you can concerning the situation.
I always feared Mrs. Paine, although I liked her
personally; but she does not possess the education
necessary nor her husband's adaptability for
the position.

Sincerely your old friend
Clarence

January 21, 1926

Professor Clarence W. Alvord
Villa Bianca
Diano Marina
Riviera di Ponente
Italy

Dear Clarence:-

I was very glad to receive your letter of December 18 and learn that you are so pleasantly situated for the winter. We certainly envy you here in Minneapolis, where the temperature is now about ten below and we are enjoying the usual epidemics of colds.

I presume the news will have reached you before this does that I have been appointed executive secretary of the Committee on Endowment of the American Historical Association. The committee has been in existence for a year now, with Greene as chairman. Wriston of the Connecticut Wesleyan was executive secretary of the committee at first but had to give it up when elected president of Lawrence College, and Greene handled the preliminary work. The committee has now been reorganized, with Senator Beveridge as chairman, but Greene is still a member and will undoubtedly take an active part. I have secured leaves of absence from the University and the Historical Society from February 1 to the opening of the college year in the fall and will have my headquarters in New York. My office will be 110 Library Building, Columbia University, and I hope to have a room in one of the Columbia dormitories. Elizabeth is teaching in the English department at the University this term and will remain here until April, or possibly until June, but she and the children will certainly spend the summer with me in or near New York.

Dr. Schmidt is a member of the Committee on Endowment and I am hoping to see him in Chicago on my way east. I understand that he has been quite ill.

I do not know that I have any aptitude for money raising -- certainly I have not had any experience at it -- but the committee of the council, consisting of Paxson, Hayes, and Boyd, acting I suspect, at the suggestion of Greene, picked me for the job, and if they think that I can do it, I am willing to try. The movement for an adequate endowment for the Association seems to me to be of the very greatest importance for historical interests in America, although, of course, a great deal will depend upon how the income is spent. Confidentially, I think that I will be in a position to have some influence on that, as the committee is apparently going to have to work out pretty definite plans or even tentative budgets in order to get the money.

I am inclined to think now that the most important work that the Association can do is to make an adequate and somewhat continuous survey of historical activities and agencies in the country and suggest programs and methods for work by the various agencies in the field and for their co-operation with each other. In this way the Association can, I believe, with a comparatively small amount of money, influence the expenditure of very large sums of money by other agencies, including the federal and state governments. Some of the income from the endowment, of course, should be spent for specific projects directly under the Association, particularly along the line of providing bibliographies and other tools.

Any ideas which may occur to you with reference to the campaign for the endowment or the possible program for the Association will be very much appreciated. I wish that I could have an opportunity to talk the whole matter over with you. There is a very good prospect, by the way, that, if a satisfactory program can be worked out, we will get a large sum of money from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial to start the thing off.

Things have been going reasonably well at the Minnesota Historical Society and at the University this fall. The new State Department of Administration and Finance has wound us up in a lot of red tape, but so far we have managed to work things out about as we wanted them.

About half of the third volume of the Folwell history is now in galley proof, but the editorial work is not yet finished on the appendix. We say that it is coming out in the early spring but I fear that it will be summer before it appears.

Blegen has secured a leave from Hamline University and will devote his full time to the society as acting superintendent during my absence.

Krey also has a special job on his hands. The Commonwealth Fund has made a provision for a preliminary survey of the teaching of history in relation to the social sciences in the secondary schools, and Krey has been selected to direct the survey. I understand that he is to be off duty at the University in the spring term, and he tells me that he will be in the east for a couple of weeks in February. Fortunately the department is large enough now so that it seems to be fairly easy to make adjustments to provide for such leaves. Our people are in such demand for summer positions elsewhere now that only one member of the department will be teaching at Minnesota the first term of summer school and none the second term.

There has been no change in the situation with reference to the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. We had a meeting of the council at Ann Arbor to discuss with Dr. Tyler Dennett, chief of the Division of Publications of the Department of State, the project for the compilation and possible publication by the government of the territorial papers in the Federal Archives. The council de-

C. W. A. 1/21/26--3

decided to appoint a committee to handle the matter for the Association, and someone proposed that a small sum of money should be made available for the expenses of the committee. Immediately Quafe and Mrs. Paine, assuming the roles of watch dogs of the treasury, growled vigorously, but the money was appropriated nevertheless. I cannot, of course, do anything about the W. V. W. A. situation until the endowment campaign is over; then, however, I may decide to pitch into the thing and see what can be done. There are a large number of members who are ready to follow anyone who will take the lead in the matter.

Elizabeth read your letter and sends her regards to you and Idress. Both the children are recovering from colds now, but otherwise they have been very well and are developing rapidly. Father and mother are also reasonably well this winter.

I trust you will pardon me for dictating a letter to you. Had I written it by hand, it would have been much briefer for I am greatly pressed for time.

Sincerely yours

B/P

DEC 18 1926

HOTEL JACOB & D'ANGLETERRE

44, RUE JACOB — PARIS
J. BERTHIER, PROP^r

CONFORT MODERNE

TÉLÉPHONE DANS LES CHAMBRES
RELIÉ AU RÉSEAU DE LA VILLE

TÉLÉPHONE : FLEURUS 19-94

Registre du Commerce Seine N° 9491

PARIS LE, December 5 1926

Dear Solon:

This will be merely a line or two in answer to yours. On account of an attack of influenza, I did not give the Brighton Lecture on October 28 and am giving it December 13; so I shall be able to talk with some Londoners about raising money for the A. H. A. I have already written to Lady Astor and she has invited me to luncheon for the purpose. Her opinion is the same as mine that the effort is not worth making. I'll try to get a donation from her, however, and will talk to our Ambassador.

Life goes along with me very happily. Except for the absence of Idress, I have not felt in such good humour for years as I am at the present time. Writing goes, however,

rather hard. I am behind with my chapters
for the Cambridge History of British Empire
and Newton is putting on the thumb screws.
But I shrug my shoulders at him. He'll
get them in plenty of time. In fact they
are going fairly well.

Give my love to Elizabeth and the
children.

Affectionally yours
Clarence

December 20, 1926

Dr. Clarence W. Alvord
173 Rue St. Germain
c/o American University Union
Paris, France

Dear Clarence:-

I was much pleased to get your letter of December 5, for, although I have been hearing about you from a good many people, it is a long time since I have had any direct word.

The opening with Lady Astor is very encouraging and we would be much gratified, of course, to receive a contribution from her. I shall await with interest the results of your interviews.

I saw Idress for a few minutes about three weeks ago and she was looking very well. I suppose she will be back with you before long and, from what Oliver told me, I take it that there is a good chance that you will be over here next summer. If so, I trust that we will have an opportunity to see something of each other.

I have not, I think, acknowledged the copy of your Raleigh lecture that you sent to me some time ago. I read it with very great interest and I shall be able to make good use of it in my course on the West.

You will be interested to know, by the way, that Shippee and I have decided to write a volume on "The West in American History" for Munro's Century Series. We think that Paxson's book does not entirely fill the bill. Barnes wanted our book for the Borzoi Series but we did not like the company we would be in.

Our family is all well and Elizabeth reciprocates your message.

Cordially yours

SJB/B

JAN 17 1927

HOTEL JACOB & D'ANGLETERRE

44, RUE JACOB - PARIS

J. BERTHIER, PROP^{TE}

CONFORT MODERNE

TÉLÉPHONE DANS LES CHAMBRES

RELIÉ AU RÉSEAU DE LA VILLE

TÉLÉPHONE : FLEURUS 19-94

Registre du Commerce Seine N° 9491

PARIS, LE December 29 1926

My dear Solon:

First to your business: I consulted our Ambassador and Lady Astor concerning the possibility of obtaining subscriptions for the A. H. A. from Americans in England and from Englishmen. Both were of the opinion that a campaign would not pay. Houghton expressed himself most emphatically that no American institution should attempt to raise money in England at the present time. Lady Astor felt that the effort would not pay. Prof. Lasak, on the other hand, ~~felt~~ held just the opposite opinion. He said that there were a number of wealthy Englishmen who could and would willingly make large subscriptions. There you have it. Take your choice. My own opinion is similar to that of Lady Astor.

The yield would not be worth the effort. Let me know, however, if your committee has the contrary opinion and possibly I might help them.

The legislation lecture was apparently a huge success. In the first place it was a very brilliant affair as far as the audience was concerned. There was a large attendance and the scarlet English gowns were conspicuous since the Vice-Chancellor led the procession to the stage, his sash was carried before him. Walking behind him were the principal of Bedford College, the U. of London M.P., other officials, and then Viscount Haldane and the poor speaker, in black gown & U. of Ill. hood.

The lecture was something of a composite of my drunken musings and a serious discussion of the misinterpretations of 18th century history. I managed to keep the audience in good humor and what I said was discussed heatedly on the campus the next day. Poor

44, RUE JACOB - PARIS

J. BERTHIER, PROP^r

CONFORT MODERNE

TÉLÉPHONE DANS LES CHAMBRES

RELIÉ AU RÉSEAU DE LA VILLE

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Haldane
 didn't hear or didn't understand
 what I said and ~~for~~ in his after
 remarks proclaimed his agreement
 with my sentiments which in his expounding
 were just the opposite to what I supposed I
 had said.

Your demand for information led to
 a very pleasant lunch with Lord & Lady Astor.
 There was present also Lady Kerry (Sandbourne's
 daughter-in-law) who took this means of getting
 hold of me, Kerry not knowing my London
 address. During the lunch the two ladies fixed
 up a theatre party for the poor old professor. So
 next day ^{all} we dined with the Earl of Kerry and
 then went to the theatre.

The Hubert Halls were most kind, gave
 me a key to their apartment with an invitation
 to any or all meals. I lunched twice and they gave
 a tea for me. I saw Lashie at his house also.

Doherty is not yet back but I expect her soon.
 Love to Elizabeth.

Sincerely yours

Clarence