



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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January 4, 1929

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

You don't write very often, but when you do, your letters are extremely interesting. If you have kept copies of all your letters you will find them very valuable at some time in the future. Certainly you can work up some very interesting talks out of them when you get back to this country.

I did have a busy time at the A.H.A. meeting, but not exactly as indicated in the program, or, at least, in the first edition of it, which is probably the one that you saw. You may have noticed that I was down for two things in separate rooms at the same time. By playing each against the other, I managed to get out of both of them. Miss Nute took my place on the archives program, with a paper entitled "Some Conclusions from a Resurvey of Minnesota Archives." I did not hear it but I read it in advance; it was a good paper and the reports are that she made quite a hit. I got Kellar to preside at the session of the Agricultural History Society, but had to be present myself, of course, in view of the great honor that had been conferred upon me. I expected to preside at the luncheon of the Agricultural History Society, but Sioussat, who was to have been the speaker at the luncheon, was unable to be there because of illness in the family and so we decided to call off the luncheon. Thus, you see I managed to get out of everything of a formal nature.

That I was busy, however, is indicated by the fact that I had a breakfast conference every morning, and on Sunday another conference following the breakfast. The executive committee of the M.V.H.A. held a meeting; Mrs. Paine was not there because of illness in her family. The committee voted to appoint two committees, or rather to authorize the president to; a Committee on Policy of three members, and a Clarence Walworth Alvord Memorial Commission of nine members. Schafer will be chairman of the first committee; I will be a member of it, and we hope that Barker will be the other member. I shall also be the chairman of the Alvord Commission, and Ramsdell said he would appoint for the other members any whom I may suggest. The prospects seem to be fairly good for raising a ten thousand dollar revolving fund for publication. Mrs. Alvord is much interested and will help. Dr. Schmidt is also much interested and tells me that he can raise three or four thousand dollars in Chicago. At the meeting of the executive committee, Quaife expressed a fear that this might injure the Review in some way, but no one else seemed to take that seriously.

T. C. B. 1/4/29 -- 2

Having reached the end of a cylinder and it being time for lunch, I will now close with best New Years wishes for you and Mrs. Blegen.

Sincerely yours

B/P

JAN 16 1929

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33 Fredrik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway
Jan. 3, 1929

Dear Steve,

I enclose a carbon copy of a letter I have just written to Mr. Hovde. As you will see, it relates to two works of travel and description.

My work is getting heavier and more complicated than it was at the start, but I am managing to keep afloat. To vary my program a little and in order to avoid going stale in the work of collecting data, I am going to call a halt in a week or two and write two or three chapters for which my material seems to be as complete as it is likely to be.

We have come safely through a week of Christmas dinners and parties and I am on the job again.

I had a letter from Dean Ford today and learned of the death of Mrs. White.

Minnesota History for December came the other day, and I have read it with the keenest interest. I was pleased and a little thrilled by the generous way in which you continue me as editor even though I am temporarily away from the scene. Another thing that gave me pleasure was the fact that two of the articles came out of classes of mine. That sort of thing is an old experience for you, but new for me. Your review of the four published volumes of the Schlesinger-Fox series

over

is admirable. And while I am thus~~ing~~ presenting compliments I want to compliment you on your Alvord article in the M.V.H.R. You have packed a great deal into a few pages and yet there is no crowding of details. The whole thing is in good form and in just the tone an historical appreciation of Alvord needed. And I did not overlook those neat remarks about state history.

Weren't you impressed by the handsome compliments that brother Quaife prints for "the garment which now adorns" the Mississippi Valley Historical Review?

To return to Minnesota History, there is one little wail that I want to emit. During the last few years we have run a good many report articles -- on annual meetings and summer conventions. In some cases I have initialed these; in some cases they are neither initialed nor signed. I don't think it looks well to overload the table of contents with one author's name, and especially the editor's name. I note that my name appears three times in the new table of contents, but two of these articles were not essentially different from the conventional notes that we print in the rear of the magazine. They ~~were~~ merely a little longer. Do you not agree with me that the table of contents would have looked a little better if Theodore C. Blegen had stayed a little more in the background?

The "Norske Videnskaps-Akademi i Oslo," which is publishing my revised essay on "The 'America Letters,'" permitted me to insert English translations of all my quotations. The pamphlet will be off the press in about a week. I am to receive fifty copies without charge.

We are all well, though Margaret has had flu or something like flu. The winter has been mild thus far, but the sun is a rare visitor here.

Sincerely,
Jed

Dear Steve:

JAN 28 1929
Another long report! As you will see, however, this is more a letter than a report.

I hope ~~the~~ annual meeting will be a fine one. Wish I could be there for it.

My regards to Mrs. Buck and to the staff.

The days seem to fly by. I have to try ^{to crowd} a couple of years into one.

Ed.

JAN 28 1929

Copy

33 Fredrik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway
Jan. 11, 1929

Reverend D. G. Ristad, President
Norwegian-American Historical Association
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Ristad:-

The most interesting recent addition to my growing collection of typewritten copies of "America letters" is a series which I shall call THE DUUS PAPERS. The original manuscripts, 28 in number, were received from Fru Domprest Hansteen, a daughter of the Rev. Olaus Duus, the writer of the letters. They came in to Landslaget and are preserved in the Historiografisk Samling, Oslo. The Rev. Mr. Duus was a minister at Waupaca, Wisconsin, in the fifties. His letters, running from July 3, 1855, to June 28, 1858, were sent to his father, Consul O. J. Duus of Kragerø. The typewritten copies make a total of 115 typed pages. The letters present a very interesting picture of social life on the frontier in the fifties. Duus, with headquarters at Waupaca, served seven congregations: (1) Waupaca (2) Neenah, country (3) Neenah, town, and Menasha -- one congregation (4) Holden, Waushara County (5) Winnecanne (6) a Swedish congregation in Waupaca County (7) Stevens Point, Portage County. The letters, which are charmingly written, tell of his pastoral travels in winter and summer; of social conditions; furnishings of log cabins; the getting of supplies from Norway; Indians; Yankee neighbors; investments in land and profitable sales before the panic of 1857; how the panic affected the farmers; general comparisons with Norway; the emigration situation and the condition of immigrants upon their arrival in Wisconsin; a visit to Milwaukee and Madison and a call upon the governor of Wisconsin; tendencies in Norwegian-American speech (the latter point is amusing, for Duus in his early letters writes rather caustically about the corruption of the speech of the settlers, giving various examples; later he becomes as much a victim of this corruption, or Norwegianization of English words, as the settlers whom he earlier criticized); and finally, his own family life. The intimate portion of the letters amounts almost to a diary recording the lives, adventures, joys, and woes of his small children, and makes a delightful domestic picture. Duus had to build a fence around his yard so that his small son could play at peace with the world; the reason for this was a fight between the son and a pig; the pig tried to take away the son's sandwich; a tussle followed; failing to impress the pig by hitting him, the son boarded the enemy and sank his teeth into an ear; the enemy retreated, squealing; but the minister, being of pacific tendencies, decided that a fence was desirable. This is one of dozens of amusing pictures from the frontier minister's home life. There is practically nothing in the letters about theological controversies; the letters are valuable chiefly for social history. I should not say that the collection is of any great historical importance; but it is distinctly worth having, and it makes most entertaining reading. I took three sets, and left one set with the Historiografisk Samling. The letters were rather difficult to decipher: I used an expert at the Samling to make the copies, then had them collated with Fru Natrud, and finally worked on the most difficult points myself. Some things remain illegible; in other cases there

are queer little drawings, faded and indistinct. I have taken tracings of these.

The work at the University library has gone forward smoothly. I have added 112 pages to the collection of typed letters there; also a considerable number of photostats. My transcripts of letters now total somewhere between 600 and 700 pages, not a very impressive total, I must admit. Still, the materials ~~are~~ are distinctly interesting historically. Apart from supervising the copying and the photostat work, I have managed to keep fairly busy with research work of various sorts. I have spent a little time prowling about second-hand book stores looking for books of American travel and description, a field in which the Minnesota Historical Society is much interested.

"Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi i Oslo" is publishing in pamphlet form ~~xxxxix~~ my revised essay on "The 'America Letters.'" It ought to be out in a few days; I shall of course send you a copy. It is in English. Later it will be published in a Norwegian translation in Heimen. I may add that its publication by the Academy of Science was arranged by Professor Kolsrud on his own initiative. I had not planned to bring it out in English, at least not here. Of course I have no objection to its publication in this form, and it may do some good. If I were well supplied with this world's goods I would have enough extra copies run off to enable us to send the pamphlet out to members of our Association in America, for it might stimulate the collection of materials at home. But tobacco is so expensive in Norway that my smoking habits practically exhaust my extra supply of funds. Publication by the Academy, I may add, is a gratifying sign of the interest Norwegian scholarship is showing in our enterprise.. Do not get the impression from these remarks that my paper is any wonderful paper; as a matter of fact it is not intended as a contribution to knowledge; it is a mere popular appeal.

I am invited to lecture under the auspices of Nordmandsforbundet in February. I put it off as long as possible with the idea that my Norwegian would be brushed up sufficiently for me to attempt the thing in the speech of the natives. I suppose I shall have to go through with it. Nordmandsforbundet, by the way, is coöperating most handsomely with me.

I think it desirable for the Association to publish important new manuscripts with as little delay as possible. The case of the Munch Ræder letters offers just now an interesting illustration. Both in text and in accompanying introduction and notes Malmin's work contains much new material. Among other things Mr. Malmin ran down a reference to a Scandinavian newspaper published at New York which antedated the famous Nordlyset. This was a first-class discovery. In the course of his search for a file of the paper he wrote an inquiry to an employee, or official, of the Library of Congress. This gentleman proceeded to write and to publish an article about the whole affair. I do not touch upon the case to make capital of the peculiar ethics and taste of the Library of Congress individual. On the whole, I must (though ruefully) applaud his zeal, while forgetting his taste. In the long run the historical importance of the "find" transcends such fine points as ethics. The

February 7, 1929

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

I have received and read with much interest your letter of January 3 and the copy of your letter of January 11 to Mr. Ristad. If I had more time I should write you a long and gossipy letter but, as it is, about all I can do is to congratulate you on the progress that you are making, and to warn you to make the most of your time for I shall never let you off again for another year's leave.

Your Duus Papers sound very interesting and I trust that you turn up some collections equally interesting relating Minnesota. By the way we are thinking of reprinting Gjer-set's article in Studies and Records, volume 3, in some future number of Minnesota History. Have you any objections? We should get his consent, of course. Our reason for this is not any lack of good material but the feeling that so excellent an article ought to be made available to a larger audience of Minnesota people. Papers are coming in for the magazine from all sorts of unexpected places, but some of them are none too good. I have just turned down a little sketch from Randolph Edgar, for example.

County historical societies are popping up all over the state; one was organized at Fairmont in Martin County a few days ago, and today I had two letters from people in Cottonwood County asking about how to organize a society. The prospects are that our summer meeting will be held in Hutchinson and vicinity. Mr. Babcock is to have charge of the arrangements again.

Roger and Mary are both sick again; whether bronchitis, whooping cough, or measles remains to be seen. Elizabeth threw her knee out of joint the other day and is hobbling around on canes.

With best regards from all the bunch

B/P

Cordially yours

As you will note, Mr. Blegen, I am signing and mailing this, as Mr. Buck dictating it last night and is not here today.

W. E. P.

February 11, 1929

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

We had a meeting of the American history group the other day -- this time at the suggestion of Ford -- to work out the program for next year, and we had to go ahead with your program without consulting you. Unless our arrangement is upset in the higher regions, you will be scheduled to give the history of Minnesota in the winter and spring terms; and intensive course, "Topics in Recent American History" in the fall; and another intensive, "Topics in Minnesota History," in the winter. If you object to the fields that we have assigned you for intensive courses, you can doubtless change them despite the announcement, as most of the students appear to be interested more in fulfilling the requirement than in the subject matter of the course. The requirement, by the way, is intensive work, has been reduced from ten to five hours, so these courses will probably not be so crowded as they have been in the past.

At my suggestion the history of Minnesota will be opened up to sophomores, who have had or are taking the general course in American History. I am planning to add a third term to our "West" courses in the spring, and Shippee is being relieved of enough work so that he can give an Honor course.

I suppose that the cold weather in Europe, about which we are reading in this country, will make you feel right at home.

Sincerely yours

B/P

February 27, 1929

Dr. T. C. Blegen
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

Herewith I am sending you some correspondence that speaks for itself. Not being so fearful of mail robbery as Mr. Holand is, I am sending the original letters received and our carbons of letters sent, so be sure to return them for our file.

Doubtless you will think that I am passing the buck in this matter, but you are still the editor of the magazine, even though you are on leave, and I feel that you are much more competent to make a decision in this matter than am I. My statement to Holand that as much material has been accepted for the June number of the magazine as we have use for is perfectly true, although it is also true that I was glad that such was the case.

I am sorry that Holand will not let me send his report and the pictures to you, for it occurred to me that you might be able to check up on some of his statements while you are over there. The document is a plausible one and my own inclination would be to publish it. By putting several cuts on the same page, the illustrations could be got in in two plates, I think. If you think it necessary, we can, I suppose, have a copy made of the article and send it to you, but perhaps you can make your final decision after you get back and have an opportunity to examine it and the illustrations here. Should that necessitate postponing publication until the December number, no great harm would be done, presumably, except to Mr. Holand's peace of mind.

You are aware, I believe, that Miss Heilbron is planning to run off the middle of June and leave you to get out the September magazine. She will do all she can on it before she leaves, of course. We are now reading galley proof on the March number.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAR 8 1929

33 Fred. Stangsgate
Oslo
19 Feb., 1929

Dear Steve:-

The report habit is so ingrained with me that I have to get one off every month or so, even if I have very little to say. The first two paragraphs in the enclosed report are, as you see, "scare items" and I hope they will have a good effect. Sometimes such stories prove to be boomerangs, however. In my speeches to the Norsk population at home I used to tell, not without a slightly dramatic air, about my proposed book on Col. H. C. Heg, how I wrote to his widow, how she answered me, explaining that she had carefully preserved her husband's manuscripts up to a spring house-cleaning the year before my inquiry arrived. Then the papers disappeared. It made a good story, with visions of a briskly burning bon-fire fed by bundles of Civil War letters written by the gallant colonel. The world lost the letters, -- and of course the book too. It was all very pathetic. But it turns out that the careless maid merely moved the box in which the letters were kept. They were not destroyed. And now the Wisconsin Historical Society has the whole collection! The joke is on me. I should not have taken Mrs. Heg's word for it; I should have visited New Jersey and had a look at the attic myself. But I suppose the Tollefsrude diary really has been burned up. One can hardly suppose that the younger Mr. Tollefsrude is mistaken as to whose house burned. The evidence seems clear that it was his own, not his neighbor's. Of course he may be mistaken in thinking that the diary was in it.

We found a report of the annual meeting in the Minneapolis Journal. Congratulations on what must have been a remarkably brilliant and successful meeting. I wish I could have attended the luncheon.

I am reading Judge Ueland's reminiscences with profound enjoyment and will try to produce a review of it.

The winter continues to be very pleasant here, mild and attractive. My trip across the mountains was most interesting. And visiting Bergen and Stavanger, with their ancient buildings and queer old streets, was like making a personal trip back to the Middle Ages. Bergen was a Hansa town and still shows in many respects the Hanseatic influence. The pier is called "Tyskebryggen" -- that is, the German pier; there is a Hanseatic museum; and the old houses of the Hanseatic merchants are still standing. But back of the Hanseatic period is the old Norse period, and one of the remains from this earlier period is the old King's Hall, which is the most beautiful hall I have ever seen anywhere.

Sincerely,

LT

Fred. Stangsgate 33, Oslo
Feb. 19, 1929Copy for Mr. Snick

My dear Mr. Ristad:-

In a recent letter I referred to a clue to a California diary, and I mentioned having asked Mr. A. O. Barton to look into the matter. He communicated with the supposed owner of the diary, Mr. C. H. Tollefsrude of Rolfe, Iowa, and received the following reply: "Father's California Diary, or Dagbog, was kept from December, 1851, to October, 1856, covering the time of his absence from home. Upon his death May 17, 1903, the Dagbog came into my possession; but Dec. 31, 1925 was lost in a fire which at that time destroyed my home here. It was written in Norsk."

I have been trying to find a contemporary list of the passengers on the "Restauration" of 1825. Not long ago I learned from contemporary documents that the question of the confiscation of the sloop (in New York) was put before the Secretary of the Treasury (at Washington). This was done by the Collector of Customs at New York. I assumed that the sloop records had been sent to the Treasury Department and was hopeful that the ship manifest would turn up. I therefore wrote to Mr. Newton D. Mereness, archivist of the Conference of State Historical Agencies of the Upper Mississippi Valley, who is stationed at Washington. I asked him to look into Treasury records for 1825 and to send me photostats of the "Restauration" documents. From Mr. Newton I received the following reply: "All the records of the Treasury Department relating to customs prior to 1830 were destroyed by fire."

I have very little that I can report in detail in this letter. Various enterprises are going forward -- at Riksarkivet, the Historiografisk Samling, the Sociale Department, and the University Library: transcribing of manuscripts, copying of "America letters," photostat work, collation, etc.. This is all in the day's work; I cannot attempt to pick up the various items and discuss them in detail.

During the last month or so I have gone to various places in search of material: Ny Jord, a society the purpose of which is to restrict emigration from Norway; and Selskapet for Norges Vel. The officials of the former gave me a full set of their numerous publications, which have been of great value to me in studying the emigration and its connections from 1900 to 1928. Selskapet for Norges Vel has an excellent library on Norwegian agriculture and economic life, -- the best I have seen. I have also been at the American Consulate looking for emigration documents and incidentally getting some light on the way the emigration is now handled.

I have spent several weeks in a visit to Bergen and Stavanger. Newspaper publicity aided me in getting results in the collection of letters. Of course I was very busy in visiting libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions. In the matter of "America letters" I may mention (1) a collection of Knute Nelson letters obtained at Bergen, about 20 in number; with them are two letters written by Nelson's mother, one in 1863, when Knute was in the war; these letters came from a cousin of the senator, a "Laerer Andres Bergos," who kindly gave me permission to take copies; (2) two letters from Texas in the

eighties written by J. E. Mowinckel, received for copying from Harald Mowinckel of Bergen; (3) a letter from 1850 written by a pioneer woman in Wisconsin, copied through the courtesy of "Hr. Lektor M. Hansen" of Stavanger; a valuable ~~xxxxxxxx~~ portrayal of the pioneer's experiences as viewed by a woman; (4) an extremely interesting series of letters from the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ fifties and sixties, which I am copying through the courtesy of "Herr" R. A. Haaland of Stavanger; these letters are mainly from Chicago, written by Elling Haaland; on one of them the letterhead pictures Chicago as it looked in 1855; (5) a series of some thirty letters from Gaspe, a Norwegian colony in Canada engineered by Christopher Closter; these letters I did not have copied, but I took careful notes on them. Other things are in sight, including the personal papers of Ole Rynning, which were carried back to Norway by the man who buried Rynning. These papers I have not yet seen, but I have had some correspondence about them. I enclose two newspaper clippings relating to my experiences in Bergen and Stavanger. I have of course said nothing to the newspapers about the more important finds that I made in the archives at Bergen and the Quaker records at Stavanger.

The paper on The "America Letters" was published in pamphlet form by "Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi." As I mentioned in my last letter, the article is also being brought out in Norwegian.

Some months ago Mr. Prestgard said something about writing an article which he intended to send me. Will you remind him that I shall be glad to get it? His views on the collection of America letters for other than historical interest have ~~xxxxxx~~ caused a sensation in Norway; the psychological time is at hand for him to tell the Norwegians that there is a respectable way to collect America letters.

I hope to hear that the Munch Raeder manuscript has gone to press. I am worried ^{extra} about our sustaining members. If we don't send them something each year, they will probably feel that they are paying out too much money for what they are getting. I have always felt that our system of memberships could be improved. My chief idea is that a sustaining member should automatically become a life member after, say, 12 payments. This would give him a goal to work for. And we could then send all members all our publications, making no discriminations. Probably under such a system we should want to put the fees from sustaining members into the permanent fund. Despite these considerations, I agree with Osland that the annual members and the publication of Studies and Records must come first.

With good wishes to the members of the Board,

Sincerely yours,

Sheldon C. Merwin

March 11, 1929

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen
Frogner Hospits
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

From the genial tone of your letter of February 19, I take it that you had not then received my letter concerning Holand's report. Miss Heilbron and I have read your reviews and have decided to print them as reviews. They are excellent. We may cut them a little, but not much.

Couldn't you send over the copies of the Nelson letters so that we can write a note about them for the News. We have been getting a lot of additional Nelson letters from Simon Michelet. Any material of Minnesota interest that you may discover, or information about it, will be much appreciated of course for items in the News.

To revert to the reviews once more, you may be interested to know that I have read both of the books all through and consequently am in a position to appreciate your reviews. In the case of the Andrews book I should probably have been a little more critical of the editorial work, but I suppose after all our readers are not much interested in such criticism. I have been trying to get the scrapbooks and papers from Miss Andrews but without much success thus far, although she intimates that they may ultimately come to us.

After the terrible tales that we have been reading in the papers about the cold winter in Europe, I am surprised to read that you find it mild and attractive. I suppose, however, that it is mild only in comparison with what you are accustomed to in Minnesota. It begins to look now as if the worst of our winter were over.

You will be interested to know that the bill for the printing of the Territorial Papers has been passed by Congress and signed by the president. Presumably, however, the money has not been actually appropriated for the work but that will come later as a matter of routine, I understand. Our Minnesota legis-

T. C. B. - 3/11/29 - 2

lature, or rather the House, has passed a bill authorizing counties to provide quarters and make appropriations for county historical societies, and the bill has been recommended for passage in the House. The fight between the University and the Big Three is going merrily on.

Sincerely

SJB/H

MAR 20 1929

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Fredrik Stangs Gate 33
Oslo, Norway
March 4, 1929

Dear Steve,

The program for my work at the University next year as tentatively arranged by the American history group is very satisfactory to me. *Thank you for your letter;* I shall have to think over carefully my plans for the two intensive courses, but I think they will work out nicely. I am glad the general Minnesota course has been opened to sophomores. It seems to me that Minnesota history ought to go well under the new plan of relating it to the general course in American history and widening the gates a little.

I have just completed a chapter entitled "Oleana, a Colonization Project in Pennsylvania," one of the most interesting and amusing things I have ever done. Now I am working on "California Gold and Norwegian Emigration." I had to write to keep myself from blowing up. Of course one could keep on collecting for the whole year, but it may be some years before I have another chance like this to write. And I have already discovered that it is good policy. Though my notes are fairly decent, I am finding it extremely useful, not to say necessary, to refer back to a good many sources for more quotations, details, etc. Now and then this opens up new paths, and the other day I ran into a rich little mine of new material.

One matter that I have not yet mentioned in my reports will interest you. Soon after starting work I began to discover emigrant songs. Every time I ran across one I took a copy, studied the thing in connection with all my materials, and at once wrote an introduction to it. Then my wife would take over the manuscript and type it for me. This kept growing gradually. Doing it in this way, I hardly felt

the work. My luck in finding songs grew better and better and I kept up my system of individual introductions. Eventually it seemed to me I had reached a point where I could write a general introduction to the whole collection. This I did, and now I have on my hands practically a completed manuscript. It totals about 225 typed pages. I mentioned the collection to Arne Kildal one day and he got in touch with one of the good publishing houses here in Norway. They now want to take it over, translate my introductions into Norwegian, and bring the book out over here. This would be a good way to get the original texts published. If I can make arrangements with these publishers for the Norwegian-American Historical Association to bring out an English version later I think I'll go ahead with the plan. I have not mentioned this affair in my reports because I want to have a few surprises to spring later.

S. F. Bemis breezed into Oslo the other day and talked like a million dollars. It seems that the Library of Congress would like to begin an elaborate program of photostating in emigration materials here. He asked me to cooperate and I shall be very happy to do so. The L. of C. will probably be glad to send the photostats out to us when we want to use them. Of course I already have a good deal of photostat work done, but Bemis wants to photostat my photostats. He also wants to buy the first set of my transcripts of "America letters." I think it doubtful that I can let him have this, but he offered to pay the entire cost of the typing, first copies, carbons, 'n everything. In fact he even offered me personally an honorarium. But my New England conscience rose up in protest and I refused.

I think the recording angel will make an entry of that in his record book ^{in the divine archives.} As a matter of fact it was merely good sense. Time is getting precious for me, I am mixed up in a lot of things, and I want to keep my hands free. I will cooperate just as far as I can -- but nothing is going to stand in the way of my doing a powerful amount of writing

before I come home. Now I am at least under no financial obligation. But I do think the Library of Congress program is a very important one and I am inclined to do about everything short of handing over my notes to further it. Bemis gives the impression of rushing in, so to speak, that is of plunging into complicated problems without much preliminary orientation. For example, he has launched a similar big movement in Sweden, -- but he had not even written to Stephenson, in fact he seemed not to know that Stephenson spent last year in Sweden. He has appointed a Swedish scholar to engineer the photostating, by a new process, in the Scandinavian countries. By the way, the new processes of photostating and photographing materials are probably worth investigating by Miss Nute. There seems to be a Swedish invention for photographing manuscripts on this photographing can be done in an ordinary manuscript room; a film; these film exposures are then chucked into a photostating machine; if you want more than one photostat you press a button and the desired number drops out. Or if you can arranged to do your studying with a lantern and screen you merely use the film. Perhaps it is not as simple a process as this. When I write to Bemis I shall ask him to have some information sent to Miss Nute about the matter. Of course she may know about it.

The cold weather has not hit Norway, but there are reports of extreme suffering in Italy. We had some cold days, but so far as I know there has not been a single touch of below-zero weather here. We have been astonished. And Oslo is so protected by mountains that one hardly ever feels a wind worth mentioning. Today, March 4, is like a typical spring day in Minnesota, about 40 above. Reports from Svalbard, up in the Arctic circle, have been very discouraging: it has been so warm that the natives have hardly been able to pull through. This is no joke. The newspapers have had many reports indicating unusual suffering from the heat up there.

Sincerely,

Led

P.S. :

I am on a letter-writing spree this afternoon in celebration of my completion of "Oleana." After writing the foregoing I realized that I had not acknowledged your letter of February 7.

We are sorry to hear about the siege -- or shall I say organized assault -- of sickness that you are having in your family. I do hope the situation has brightened and that no more trouble, either sickness or accident, has befallen you. Mrs. Buck in particular seems to have been knee-deep in distress.

For a change we are keeping reasonably well. The most dramatic disaster in the family circle in recent weeks was one that occurred to me while dining out in Stavanger. Two of my teeth -- I say mine, but I must explain that they are 100% artificial and incidentally hooked together, only one of them being pegged in a root -- suddenly sagged down out of my upper jaw. Meat course, of course. By the artful use of the tip of my tongue I kept prodding the danged things back, but it required a certain skill and presence of mind to do this while continuing a vigorous conversation and incidentally renewing my attention to the meat. Though I am not exactly a Victorian, it did seem a little saddening from the point of view of its effect upon my hosts for me to eject two or three of my teeth after first contact with the meat course. If the calamity had occurred at dessert, say on a custard pudding, I should not have felt the same delicacy. I lived through the meal intending to slip the errant dentines into my vest-pocket immediately after the last skaal. Fortunately cigars were served, and this gave me an opportunity every once in a while to exercise a politician's clamp.

But before I reach the end of this page I must answer your question in re the Gjerset article. I certainly have no objections. I shall be delighted to have it reprinted and I feel sure that Mr. Gjerset will be glad to have it used in our magazine. The article contains some admirable descriptions. Sincerely,

J.C.P.

Fred. Stangsgate 33
Oslo
March 13, 1929

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

Dear Steve:-

The mail robbers allowed your letter containing the Holand correspondence to reach me safely.

If I had the article I should ask Magnus Olsen to read it. Not having the article before me, it is of course not worth while to express an opinion about the wisdom of publishing it. A few queries occur to me, however.

1. I wonder if the article adds anything to an article about the finds published in the Skandinaven almanac a year or two ago? That article was the subject of a brief note in our magazine.

2. Has Mr. Holand submitted affidavits or other evidence about the circumstances of the finds?

3. I understand that Mr. Holand is publishing a book in English on the entire Kensington affair. It strikes me that so important a question as that of the finds ought not be dealt with briefly in order to save space. He says he has endeavored to be as brief as possible. The important thing is to present every last bit of evidence relating to the finds, omitting no detail that is germane to the discussion. Naturally many people will take the sensible view that the first question of critical importance is that concerning the circumstances of the finds. The problem of genuineness will most certainly be raised by others. It ought to be probed in searching fashion by the author. The question will then be whether we can devote the necessary space

to it. It ought to be accompanied by two or three pictures of each object. In the field of Greek archeology, a field in which I have been interested as a layman for several years, finds of comparable importance would be published with absolute completeness of detail, photographic, ~~and~~ geographic, historical, critical, etc., with ample reference by means of notes and illustrations to other finds of collateral interest. On the whole, returning to Mr. Holand, the question is whether or not a brief magazine article would do justice to the numerous critical questions involved. Is not the proper place for the article his own book?

Naturally I am skeptical about the finds. Under the circumstances that is the proper frame of mind for all of us. It is up to Mr. Holand to meet that skepticism with an absolutely candid discussion in which he considers, with all the detail that he can marshal, every possible point for and against the finds.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Bligh

P.S. The very number of the finds, from varying geographic sources, justifies unusual, ^{critical} caution on the part both of Mr. Holand and a magazine editor in connection with publication.

APR 8 - 1929

March 25, 1929

Dear Steve,

Things are moving along nicely as the enclosed copy of a letter to Ristad will indicate.

I am working my head off writing. There are times when I question the wisdom of this, for the opportunities to go on collecting material, especially in newspapers of the later period, are almost unlimited. But I despair of writing up my material after I get home, for life is so ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ frightfully busy there with University and Society duties. So I have got to get a very substantial amount of the writing done here. I have done four chapters the last four weeks and one appendix. Three of the chapters are entirely new, one is a "rewrite." One of the chapters, on "Emigrant Gold Seekers," is a contribution from the ground up, -- from newspapers and archives, -- and makes a corking story. I am tempted to take a flier at the American Historical Review with it. It is in part an account of the California gold rush (from Norway!) and in part an analysis of the effects of California gold on the public mind in this country.

John N. H. that I am sending a revision of the H. review -- a few critical remarks that I intended to insert at the end of the review but forgot to put in.

We are all well. The weather is balmy and spring-like. I actually had the nerve to lecture in Norwegian a week or two ago and "got away with it." I had a good audience and -- hum, hum -- was introduced by the president of the national Parliament. The marriage of the Crown Prince was a remarkable affair of last week. Oslo went crazy about it. Pageants, royalties, princes and princesses, processions, enormous milling crowds, and so on. In the midst of it all one of the biggest stores in town obligingly burned down, contributing the greatest flare of all. A very exciting week -- but I got my weekly chapter done.

Good wishes,

Sheldon C. Steyer

P.S. The dissertation in the enclosed letter, as your eagle eye will quickly discern, is in part propaganda.

Fredrik Stangsgate #33

Oslo

March 25, 1929

Dear Mr. Ristad:-

In recent weeks I have been doing a little writing and this has so absorbed my attention that I have found little time or energy for writing letters. And I now have so many irons in the fire that I can not attempt a detailed report here. A few items, however, call for mention:

1. Various papers belonging to Ole Rynning at the time of his death in Illinois in 1838 were taken in charge by the man who buried Rynning. Later he returned to Norway. A teacher in Kopervik learned of their existence in Hardanger; and recently they were sent to me. They are not of great importance, -- mostly items from his school days, including a sheaf of Latin exercises. But the mere fact that the papers have turned up is of course of interest.

2. Mr. Vigleik Rosseland, the teacher in question, sent me some "America letters," one of which has rather unusual interest, a letter by Guri Rosseland, a heroine of the Sioux War in Minnesota, in which she tells of her experiences at the time of the outbreak.

3. A bundle of remarkably interesting letters from Iowa in the fifties (with a few from Minnesota) came to me a few weeks ago. Most of them were from "Painted Creek."

4. Perhaps the most important recent material received is a bundle of 27 letters written by Frithjof Meidell, a brother of the well known Ditmar Meidell (the author of "Oleana"). They run from 1854 to 1863. The letters from 1854 to 1858 are written from Springfield, Illinois; the rest from Calaveras County, California. They were turned over to me by Mrs. Gudrun O. Steen of Oslo, a daughter of Ditmar Meidell. In a recent lecture here in Oslo I made some reference to Meidell; Mrs. Steen read newspaper reports of this and then called on me.

5. Various other stray items have come in, but they need not be specified.

Most of these things are merely loaned to me for copying. In all cases I try to get them presented to the Historiografisk Samling, but I find that I have greater success if I subordinate the question of acquisition. I am trying to put that up to Kolsrud and other Norwegians.

I am having the various letters that have come in copied by assistants at the Riksarkiv and elsewhere.

Sir Karl Knudsen came over from London some time ago and while he was here he invited me to lunch with him. We had a very interesting conference. He expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the way in which I have handled his fund. He said he thought the returns fully justified the expenditure. He went further and said that he would undertake to finance a continuation of the work if in my judgment it seems desirable to carry it on after my departure. This, by the way, he does not want mentioned in the newspapers. I said that we would like to make arrangements for photostating and transcribing all America letters that come in, and that it would be a great convenience to have someone in Norway who could undertake specific jobs at our request from time to time. Sir Karl seemed pleased with this suggestion and intimated that I had merely to let him know and he would replenish the fund. ~~XXX~~ I was very much impressed by Sir Karl: he is of course

a man of ability and force, but he is more: a wise and far-seeing man; and a gentleman. It is really rather remarkable that our work should have received the interest and extensive financial support of a business man of London -- but when one meets Sir Karl the reason quickly becomes apparent. While I am thus speaking of the interest of Sir Karl Knudsen I would like to slip in a tribute to our own American, or Norwegian-American, business men, whose support and cooperation have been a very important factor in such success as we have had. To my mind America is coming into a cultural stage which is going to yield rich fruit. It used to be said that American business men were so absorbed in their business that they had no time for "the pursuit of culture"; and critics would point to such a man as Sir Walter Leaf of England, for example, who was a leading banker but at the same time a renowned Homeric scholar, as a type that we could not duplicate. The thing that interests me now is the many evidences which I see of American business men supporting vigorously projects in art, history, archaeology, the humanities generally, and doing this not as a fad, but from a genuine interest. This kind of support implies interest, and interest grows out of knowledge and into knowledge. It seems to me that American business men are coming into a new era and helping our civilization into a new era. As my chief, Dr. Buck, often has said, our great problem is to see to it that the science of human relations catches up with natural science, or at least that the distance between the two should be lessened. This can't be done without organization^o research in a big way; business men have learned in their own sphere the secret of organization; with their aid and cooperation I believe we are moving into a period of organization in the study of the problems of humanity that will bear some resemblance to the way in which business moved out of the old provincial, unrelated, haphazard, and disorganized stage to that of big units, consolidations, cooperation, and efficiency. I have not the slightest doubt, for example, that the American Historical Association is eventually going to raise the million-dollar endowment fund toward which it is working. I think that such societies as the Minnesota Historical Society are going to get bequests and gifts that will give a great push forward within lesser geographical units to the study of the our social backgrounds. And I think also that such an organization as the Norwegian-American Historical Association will ultimately be amply endowed by those who combine means with an understanding of the importance of organizing the scientific study of one side of American racial and cultural backgrounds. To come back to my starting point, I must say that I am pleased and encouraged by the kind of support and interest that the Association has already enlisted. There is the promise of greater things in the future.

An agent of the Library of Congress, Dr. Samuel Flagg Bemis, was recently in Oslo and I spent a couple of days with him. The Library of Congress is undertaking on a gigantic scale the assembling at Washington of photostatic copies of manuscripts in European archives and libraries relating to American history. Dr. Bemis expressed great interest in what we are doing here and came forward with a somewhat tartling proposal. He proposes to send a man to Oslo to undertake an extensive program of photostating. For example, he will photostat the "America letters" collected, place these photostats in the Library of Congress, and on request it will be possible to have them sent out to such institutions as libraries and historical societies for . He wants to photostat archival materials on a grand scale. For example, in one office where I have worked there are perhaps twenty or more large dossiers of emigration papers, in each one probably two

hundred papers. I have used much of this material, taken transcripts of some items, photostated some, and taken notes on a great deal. I mentioned this material to Dr. Bemis. "Very well," he said, "we will photostat it all." "But," I said, "that will mean four, five, or six, perhaps more, thousand photostats." "The more the better," he said. Dr. Bemis also wants a complete set of all the transcripts of "America letters" that I have secured and would of course pay for them. I said that I thought this could probably be arranged, but that it would be necessary to protect our rights somewhat to the use of this material. That is, we have in these materials the stuff for several books of "America letters" and in view of the fact that all this collecting has been sponsored by the Association I feel that I must take no step that would in any way interfere with our priority in the use of this material. There is, further, the fact that I have only three complete sets of the transcripts and Mr. Bemis does not want carbons but the first copies. I mention the matter to get it before you. Meanwhile I think the decision on this question can be deferred. At the same time I want to go on record as endorsing the plan that the Library of Congress is sponsoring. It seems to me a remarkably fine thing. It points toward the kind of organization of research of which I have been speaking. There are of course generous funds back of the Library of Congress program.

I have little else to report. I gave a lecture on the historical significance of old emigrant songs recently under the auspices of Nordmands-forbundet. An abstract of it will appear in their magazine. A fine article by a son of Professor Oscar Albert Johnson on the Association and its work recently appeared in Aftenposten; I enclose a clipping.

In my discussion of the organization of research above I forgot to speak of the Guggenheim Foundation. The more I work over here the more I appreciate the golden opportunity that the Foundation's fellowship has opened up for me. It is one of the signs of the new times that such Foundations are in existence.

Sincerely yours,

Sheldon C. Steyer

April 10, 1929

Mr. T. C. Blegen
33 Frederik Stangs Gate
Oslo, Norway

Dear Ted:-

Here goes for a reply to your letters of March 4, 13, and 25. I trust you will understand that my delay in replying was not due to any lack of appreciation of the letters, for, on the contrary, I have found them very interesting. During the last month, however, I have been a little more swamped than usual, partly because Miss Nute and I have been doing the historical map for the atlas of the north-west central region that you were supposed to do. The population maps are all finished now but I still have the job of writing the accompanying text, and Miss NGaggoOggand, and I are going to try to produce a six or seven thousand word historical sketch of the region.

You will be interested to know that young Qualey of St. Olaf's has been given an assistantship at the University for next year. His honor thesis on Norwegian settlement in Minnesota is a very good piece of work, and I think that under your able direction he can readily convert it into a master's thesis. He seems to be a very nice chap, and I am glad we were able to give him a good appointment. I was afraid that a scholarship would be the best that we could do.

I have had Holand's article copied--it would have to be done anyway if it is to be printed-- and I am sending you herewith the carbon copy. I do not quite dare to send the pictures, although I suppose he has the negatives, but we might make photostats of them if you think it worth while. I have not committed us on the matter in any way and shall not do so. I feel, however, that we could publish his paper without in any way departing from our position of neutrality, or rather, skepticism, in the whole matter.

I am glad to know that you are making so much progress with the writing, and I think you are wise to do it now while the material is fresh in your mind. By all means send your story of the "Emigrant Gold Seekers" to the American Historical Review. I should think Munro would be almost certain to accept it.

Is the Guri Rosseland, referred to in the second item in your letter of March 25 to Mr. Ristad, the same person as the Guri Endreson whom we wrote up in our Stories of Early Minnesota? I trust that you will let us have a copy of her letter for Minnesota History.

T. B. B. 4/10/29 -- 2

Your propaganda concerning the cultural interests of American business men is excellent. I think I shall have to give you an opportunity to say the same things some time to the Council of the M.H.S.

I expect to leave here on the twenty-third for the M.V.H.A. meeting at Vincennes, and then go on to Washington for the Agricultural History Society meeting. I am supposed to give a presidential address at the latter meeting and have nothing prepared as yet.

Cordially yours

B/P

JUN 28 1929

Fred. Stangsgt. 33
Oslo
June 15, 1929

Dear Steve,

My apologies for not writing for so long a time. The general tempo of life and work has been rapid these last weeks and the production of "Norway letters" has been correspondingly slow.

The plans for the summer convention, as I have read about them in the Journal and in our own News, strike me as excellent. I hope you will have had fine weather and that the tour and the sessions will have been a grand success.

My writing has been interspersed with spurts of collecting, trips to various parts of the country, and various other matters. Still I have a respectable amount written -- sixteen chapters, to be exact. The Library of Congress photostating (or filming) is coming along beautifully and I am cooperating to the fullest extent.

We expect to land in New York about July 23 on the *Homeric* and will be home by August 1, if not before.

We are all well and have had a wonderful year, but are quite keen about the prospect of getting home.

Sincerely yours,

Thorstein Blegen

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

August 18, 1931

Dear Steve:

I think that the Duluth and Two Harbors people will be very much disappointed not to have you among their guests on Thursday and Friday, and I must say that I personally would feel much happier if you were there. Probably this letter will reach you too late for you to make any change in your plans, but I want to say that if you can get down to Duluth by bus or in some other car I shall see to it that a particularly good seat is reserved for you in our chartered bus for the journey back to Grand Portage.

We now have more than twenty reservations for the bus and we have therefore made the charter final. There are about ninety definite reservations for the luncheon at Two Harbors.

I think the convention is going to be a smashing success -- at any rate from the point of view of attendance.

I have very sad news for you. A check of \$65.00 to you from the Dauber and Pine Book Shop, which you deposited in your account some time ago, has been protested owing to the fact that the International Madison Bank and Trust Company of New York upon which it was drawn is in the hands of the New York State Banking Department.

A notice of deduction has just come from the First National Bank of St. Paul -- \$65.00 plus \$1.40 in fees. Miss Palmes is this morning getting in touch with your bank. Presumably the Dauber and Pine Book Shop -- an old, established firm -- will send another check for the amount when they are informed what has happened.

I hope that you are getting a genuine rest -- and Elizabeth also.

Sincerely

led

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September 10, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I have answered the first paragraph of the enclosed letter from Miss Folwell. The second section of the letter I am passing on to you as editor of the Folwell Reminiscences.

Everything all right here. I held up the September magazine in order to get into it an account of the summer convention. The number is in proof and we are pushing it through as fast as possible.

Sincerely

Jed

TCB/H
Enc.
Fol. let.

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

September 12, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Bigelow Boulevard and Parkman Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:-

The two enclosed communications were intended for you personally, and I am therefore forwarding them to you. If you do not want to do anything about the letter from Rollin L. Smith, you might return it to us, or suggest to Mr. Smith that the Society probably would subscribe for a copy of his book.

Sincerely yours

Ted

TCB/P

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 14, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
5839 Darlington Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I am sending you herewith State Auditor's Warrant No. A383238 for \$227.50, covering the sums deducted from your salary for the retirement fund from July 1, 1929, to August 31, 1931.

The state fair exhibit turned out to be one of the best that we have ever had.

I am making a trip to Madison, Wisconsin, for a meeting of the Norwegian-American Historical Association on September 21.

With good wishes, I am

Sincerely

J. C. B.

TCB/S

Enc.
check

September 18, 1931.

Mr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

Thanks very much for sending the check from the retirement fund. It will come in handy.

I also received your letter of September 12th with enclosures and am returning to you herewith the Edward E. Smith material. This was apparently sent to me as Superintendent of the MHS and I think you can handle it. I have no personal interest in the matter.

I will appreciate it if you will remind Miss Wheelhouse that the biographies she agreed to draft for me are supposed to be in on October 1st and I will need some time for revising them.

Everything is still very hectic here and I do not have time to take care of my correspondence, to say nothing of doing research, but I still have faint hopes for the future.

Next week I am going to Terra Alta, West Virginia, a town on the summit of the Appalachians, to address an inter-city Rotary Club dinner at the request of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

We have had lots of visitors here the past week. Cappon of Virginia went through the first of the week, Wayne Stevens was here on Tuesday and Holmes on Wednesday.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck, Director.

SJB:AM

8

September 21, 1931.

Mr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

The enclosed was forwarded to me unopened from the MHS. I would prefer that all mail addressed to me be opened and examined unless it is very obviously personal, as I do not want to be bothered with things that are no longer in my province.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck, Director.

SJB:AM

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SEP 25 1931

September 23, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I did not know that the Mereness letter had been forwarded to you. Of course it should have been opened here. Thanks for sending it back.

I am reminding Miss Wheelhouse of the biography.

All well here. I have just come back from Madison. The enclosed review may interest you.

Sincerely

Jed

TCB/S

Enc.
clip.

P

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4

Saint Paul

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SOLON J. BUCK
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

SEP 28 1931

THEODORE C. BLEGEN, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
WARREN UPHAM, ARCHEOLOGIST
GERTRUDE KRAUSNICK, LIBRARIAN
GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

September 26, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Not long ago Coleman of Indiana wrote me suggesting that in the program plans for the Lincoln meeting next spring arrangements should be made for a session of state historical societies and agencies. Today I received a letter from him in which he mentions a number of names, with the suggestion that one of these might get up the program. The names are Shoemaker, Shambaugh, Harlan, Pease, and Mrs. Jouett Taylor Cannon of Frankfort, Kentucky. Before doing anything further with this matter I thought I would ask you for your advice. Perhaps a formal program is not necessary.

There is no hurry about answering this letter. Think it over and sometime let me have your suggestions.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

October 15, 1931.

Dr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

Coleman's suggestions seem to gravitate to me. Sometime ago he wrote to Ford, who is chairman of the conference of historical societies affiliated with the AHA, with reference to its session in Minneapolis, and Ford sent a copy of his letter to me for advice. I have suggested that the conference be devoted to a discussion of the publication of source materials with a view to increasing the amount published, systematizing it, and improving the quality, and particularly to coordinating the publication activities of different societies.

With reference to the MWA meeting, I think it would be a serious mistake to plan any program whatever. The "Conference of Directors of State Historical Agencies", which is what it should be called, has been very informal from the beginning. No program or subject for discussion has ever been designated in advance and yet there has never been any lack of discussion. All that is necessary to do, it seems to me, is to ask someone to preside. I would suggest Shambaugh.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

SJB:AM

OCT 19 1931

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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October 16, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I am forwarding to you this letter from Mrs. Washburn, for it is obviously intended for you personally.

You will be interested in knowing that Mrs. Washburn has already sent the Society a valuable collection of books and pamphlets from the library of Mr. Washburn.

With reference to the frame for the picture referred to in her letter, I should think that might be left to the judgment of herself and the photographer. As you know, there is no standard frame that we would care to recommend. Presumably with the kind of portrait involved, a frame of dark oak or deep brown would be appropriate.

We had our Council meeting last Monday and it went off successfully. I had hoped that we might have a memorial of Mr. Washburn read at that meeting, but I was not able to get it in time. One is being prepared by Mr. Williams in Duluth. Mr. Charles E. Adams of Duluth was elected to fill the vacancy in the Council.

I hope to send you in a few days a copy of the Executive Committee report, which I think you will read with some interest.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

*statements
receipts*

October 20, 1931.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

Your letter of October 16 enclosing Mrs. Washburn's letter has been received and I am returning it to you herewith for your further consideration and your files. I am sending Mrs. Washburn a small contribution to the fund and am telling her that you will doubtless write her with reference to the picture. If I were handling it, I think I should try to get the picture without the frame, but it is obviously a delicate matter and none of my business, of course. I think, perhaps, from the last part of her letter, she would like to have the Memorial Fund brought to the attention of the members of the society in some way. Possibly you would think it proper to insert a note about it in Minnesota History

If it is not too much trouble, I wish you would send me samples of the statements used by MHS in collecting dues, subscriptions, etc., and also of the receipt form.

I shall, indeed, be much interested to read your Executive Committee report.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT 23 1931

Saint Paul

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GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

October 21, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Here is a copy of the report that I
presented at the Council meeting on October 12.

Sincerely yours

J. C. B.

TCB/S

8

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOV - 2 1931

Saint Paul

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October 31, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

By this time you probably have taken on a number of obligations in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association in Minneapolis in December. I am writing to ask you to do one thing more. I want you to preside at the joint session of M.V.H.A. and the A.H.A. on Tuesday morning, December 29, at 10:00 o'clock. Will you do this? The program will relate in a general way to the history of the Upper Mississippi Valley, with a broad geographical interpretation of that designation.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

~~T~~

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22
20.7
207
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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

NOV 14 1931

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November 12, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I return herewith the cards that you sent me
a few days ago.

Send on anything that you want checked, and I
shall be glad to have it done as promptly as possible.

I am just back from two trips -- one to Chicago,
where I attended a conference on research in American
history, and the other to Northfield, for the funeral
of Rølvaag. Rølvaag's death is a hard blow for the
Norwegian-American Historical Association. By the way,
he told me some weeks ago that in preparing to write
Their Father's God, he read the Agrarian Crusade. I
was rather surprised to find, on reading the novel,
that the hero becomes, not a Populist, but a Conserva-
tive Republican.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

Enc.
cards

NOV 25 1931

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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MRS. CHARLES E. FURNESS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
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P

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November 23, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

At the United States Customs Office in St. Paul there is a parcel addressed to you from the Oxford University Press. It contains a book entitled Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology. The Customs office refuses to deliver up this treasure to us; and, to tell the truth, I am not sure that we ought to claim it. You are therefore requested to write to the Customs office and indicate your pleasure. Please instruct the United States Government to deliver the book to us, or, if you prefer, to yourself in Pittsburgh. Prompt action on your part will greatly relieve the mind of

Your devoted

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

P

November 25, 1931.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

The enclosed carbon copy will tell you what I have done about the book at the Customs Office. I am not interested in the subject of Vertebrate Zoology, and, assuming that the MHS does not want the book, you are at liberty to dispose of it as you think best.

✓ filed
U S Customs
af

I am afraid I shall have to ask you for two more copies of the last number of Minnesota History. I find that I have given away not only all the extra copies you sent me but also my own copy, and I shall need one to use as a model for our printer. If for any reason you are short on the last issue, one of the two could be of a previous issue.

The mid-summer weather that we have been enjoying for the last two weeks has finally come to an end apparently. I gather that you have had an unusually mild fall also.

Cordially yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H
Enc.

November 30, 1931.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Historical Building,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

Thank you very much for the two additional copies of the last Minnesota History.

You will be interested to know that the specifications which I drew up for our magazine based on those for Minnesota History have been accepted by our Publication Committee, or "Board of Editors", as it is to be called hereafter.

The enclosed pamphlet turned up among some of my Joint Committee material, and as it obviously belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society I am returning it with apologies.

I have just received the AHA program, and am looking forward eagerly to the meeting. I ~~may~~ be able to spend an extra day in the Twin Cities.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H
Enc.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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December 14, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I have discovered from a printed announce-
ment of the coming conference of historical
societies that I am down to lead, with Bemis, a
discussion of "Systematic Publication of Source
Material by Historical Societies."

I don't know whether you have had a hand
in arranging this or not, but I wish very much
that you would give me the benefit of a few
suggestions on this topic. Why is the topic
being put forward for this conference? What
are some outstanding needs, in your opinion?
Do you take it that the topic involves coöpera-
tion among historical societies?

I feel that the entire subject is one well
worth emphasizing, for source publication is
still pretty haphazard in most places, notwith-
standing the Illinois demonstration of the value
of systematic publication.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

*I should like if possible to work the discussion in the
direction of some specific proposal or proposals. Any
leads that you can give me will be highly appreciated.*

*Henry
for Bond bill*

P

3

December 21, 1931.

Mr. Theodore C. Blsger,
Historical Building,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

Your detective powers are amazing. I shall have to confess that I did suggest the subject for discussion at the conference of historical societies after receiving a Macedonian cry from Ford. I was not responsible, however, for putting you down for the discussion, although I could not have made a better selection.

Since the conference does not take place until Wednesday, I will doubtless have an opportunity to talk with you about it somewhat in advance. My objective in suggesting the subject was general rather than specific. It seems to me that the most pressing needs with reference to the documentary publication of historical societies is, first, that they be planned; second, that they be well edited; and third, that there be co-operation among societies in making their plans. I have asked Binkley, the secretary of the Joint Committee, to send you a copy of his report on "Methods of Reproducing Research Materials." I strongly believe that in normal times it would be easy to finance the publication by offset processes of large quantities of documentary material, calendars, etc., which under our present methods would never see publication.

I shall, of course, attend the conference and shall probably be unable to restrain myself from talking. I doubt if any specific proposal can be got under way at the meeting as the conference is better suited to discussion than to action. The discussion might easily lead, however, to the organization of smaller groups for effective action.

I shall appreciate it very much if you will arrange for Miss Heimes, or some other equally competent stenographer, to take down the discussion at the round table in room C at the Nicollet hotel at 2:30 P. M. on Monday, December 28. The expense will be met by the Joint Committee.

I expect now to arrive in Minneapolis late

J. Trefile

Sunday night, and to stay at the Nicollet until Wednesday night when I will move to the ~~Steeple~~. I shall probably spend most of Thursday at the Historical Society and leave for Chicago New Year's night. That will enable me to spend Saturday in Chicago and get back here Sunday morning.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

8

January 7, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Ted:-

If I remember correctly you have a bunch of reprints of Krey's article on "Monte Casino, Metten, and Minnesota." I wish you would send one of them to Prof. F. J. Tschan, 500 Pugh St., State College, Pa. I happened to mention the article to him and he expressed great interest in it. He is a former president of the American Catholic Historical Association.

You will observe that I got to Pittsburgh safely. I picked up a cold on the way but it is all gone now. I understand that you are enjoying much snow. We have been having thunder storms and temperatures up to 64. It is somewhat colder today but the sun is shining brightly. I am unable to decide whether this is fall or spring.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

January 15, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Ted:-

From the enclosed you will see that I have not lost interest in the Minnesota Historical Society. By the way, did you note in the January number of The American Historical Review that the Library of Congress had acquired a large collection of the papers of Manton Marble. You will remember that he was the New York journalist who made the trip to the Red River Valley and wrote it up in an interesting account published in Harpers Magazine. It might be worth your while to find out whether or not his paper contained any material concerning this trip.

I am still trying to get the material ready for our January magazine and doubt if ~~it~~ comes out before March First. Next Thursday I go to Harrisburg for a meeting of the Federation of Historical Societies. The following Saturday, I address a woman's club here and the following Tuesday we have the annual meeting of the society. Life is just one--- you know the rest of it. Any way I can console myself with the thought that we are enjoying summer weather, with temperature ranging in the 60s day and night, as compared with your temperatures hovering around zero - Ain't Nature Grand!

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

8

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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EVERETT H. BAILEY, TREASURER

THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

JAN 18 1932

WARREN UPHAM, ARCHEOLOGIST
GERTRUDE KRAUSNICK, LIBRARIAN
GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

January 16, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Your letter of January 7 got shoved aside in the general excitement connected with preparations for the annual meeting and the great event itself, but Miss Palmes sent off a copy of the Krey reprint to the address that you mentioned.

The annual meeting came off nicely, with good weather and a very nice attendance -- about 120 at the luncheon and 65 at the local history conference. Burt gave a good address in the evening. Naturally you were much missed throughout the day.

I understand from the newspapers that you are having summer down there. Here we are having crisp winter weather.

Greetings to E.H.B.

Sincerely

See

TCB/SL

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAR 7 1932

Saint Paul

GUY STANTON FORD, PRESIDENT
MRS. CHARLES E. FURNESS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM W. CUTLER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
EVERETT H. BAILEY, TREASURER

DA
THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

WARREN UPHAM, ARCHEOLOGIST
GERTRUDE KRAUSNICK, LIBRARIAN
GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

March 5, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

The enclosed draft of the tentative program for the Lincoln meeting of the M.V.H.A. is the general result of a mountain of correspondence and a huge amount of honest sweat. Will you look this over and give me any suggestions that occur to you? I had a tough job in getting people to promise to give papers or talks at Lincoln, for the problem of expense in getting to Lincoln looms large to almost everybody.

Are you planning to attend the Lincoln meeting? If so, I want to put you down as the chairman for the luncheon conference on Thursday, April 28. I am hoping that Carter will come for that conference, though the matter is still in doubt. I will hear definitely from him about March 8. In case he turns me down, I shall have to get somebody else. What would you suggest as the theme for a timely and stimulating luncheon conference?

Please, for old times' sake, look this over and answer me by return mail.

Sincerely yours

Stanton C. Blegen

TCB/S

Enc.
program

March 7, 1932

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

I have read your program with much interest and think that you have done a very good job in spite of the difficulty.

I do not expect to attend the meeting. It would take a week of my time and cost a good deal of money; and, despite the excellence of the program, I do not think it would be worth what it would cost for me to go.

As for a subject for the luncheon conference on Thursday, if Carter does not come, I would suggest "Materials for Research in Mississippi Valley History, What they Are, and How they Can be Made Available"; or "Problems of Historical Publication" dealing with both materials for research and the result of research--what is worth publishing and how it can be brought out. I have in mind, of course, some of the questions raised by Binkley in his "Methods of Reproducing Research Materials", of which I think you have a copy. Possibly Holbrook's "Survey of Activities" might also serve as a basis of discussion of some such subject as "Correlation of Activities of Agencies and Institutions with Reference to Mississippi Valley History". A copy of Holbrook's report has been sent to the MHS.

I would advise very strongly against listing any specific topic for discussion at the conference of state historical societies. I have attended a number of these, all of them, I think, since I started the practice of holding them, and there has never been any lack of discussion. I do not want to see this affair degenerate into a formal meeting such as the conference of historical societies held under the auspices of the AHA. The original idea was merely to provide a time in the program for the directors of state historical agencies to get together and discuss their problems of mutual interest. I would suggest, therefore, that it be called "Conference of Directors of State Historical Agencies". The word directors would include assistant directors, of course, but would exclude mere casual members of societies. If the program committee wants to designate someone as chairman, well and good, but even that is unnecessary, as the group can easily elect its own chairman when it assembles.

We do not like the sample of Minnesota weather that arrived night before last and is still with us. If you have any more like it, please keep it there or send it up into Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

P

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAR 9 1932

Saint Paul

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MRS. CHARLES E. FURNESS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
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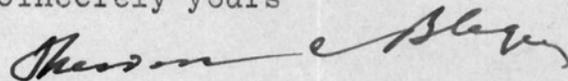
March 7, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Since I wrote you the other day I have had a letter from Clarence E. Carter in which he tells me that it will be impossible for him to attend the Lincoln meeting. This leaves me without a subject or speaker for the luncheon conference and I have the more need of getting a suggestion from you. What would you propose for that conference?

Sincerely yours



TCB/S

MAR 14 1932

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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March 12, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Western Pennsylvanis Historical
Society
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 7. The luncheon conference on the first day is still open, but it is now hoped to get either Dr. Jameson or Dumas Malone. Probably both will decline and if so I may have to trust to the ingenuity of the committee on local arrangements, headed by Jim Sellers, to solve the problem.

The program has turned out pretty well, it seems to me. At the last moment, I find myself with more papers at hand than we can use.

The weather here is still Arctic.

In a few days you will receive the March issue of Minnesota History. I think you may be surprised when you see it. By the way, I have examined your own magazine with considerable interest and pleasure.

Sincerely yours

Theresa C. Mearns

TCB/SL

March 25, 1932.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

If any further evidence were needed that progress and improvement continue in the work of the Minnesota Historical Society it is supplied by the March number of Minnesota History. I like all of the changes in format that have been made with the exception of the use of modern figures, and I suppose that is unavoidable with the type that you are using.

In content too this number is most excellent, although I was not much impressed by Miss Skinner's rambling review and was surprised to learn from it, on page 91, that the French had a trading fort on the site of Pittsburgh when Washington bore the message to them. It has generally been supposed around here that the French forts in this region were military rather than trading posts, and that Fort Duquesne was not built until the year after Washington carried the message of the Governor of Virginia.

I am sorry, also, that you have perpetuated in two places the error made originally in the program of the American Historical Association that the round table on Materials for Research was a session of the American Council of Learned Societies. It was actually a session of the AHA held at the suggestion of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the ACLS and the SSRC. You are, of course, not to blame for the mistake, and it is of no great consequence. I am sure you would not feel comfortable if I did not object to something.

The annual meeting must have been a very successful affair, and especially the local history conference. We have just had a somewhat similar conference here under the auspices of the history department of the University, the attendance consisting mostly of teachers. A copy of the program is enclosed herewith. If you have any separates to spare of your report, and of Weicht's paper, I could make good use of them, especially the report. There appears to be no institution in Pennsylvania that is collecting current newspapers extensively.

I note (page 99) that your new Alexander Ramsey material includes some letters on "Pennsylvania Politics of the Fifties."

would it be worth our while to get photostats of these, and if so what would it cost? Perhaps you could get someone to make us a calendar of these letters. I note also (page 101) that the Memoirs of Mrs. White include "an account of her early life in western Pennsylvania." Can you tell me how extensive this portion is and what it would cost us to get a transcript of it?

I think you will be interested in a bit of gossip. A lady who doesn't approve of the changes that are being made here asked the president of the society what he thought of the last number of our magazine. When he indicated his approval she snorted, and said that if it had a green cover on it it would be Minnesota History. I see that the New York people have changed the title of their magazine to New York History. Fox tells me that it was deliverately copied from Minnesota History.

Sometime ago I asked Miss Krausnick some questions about the filing of serials, but I have had no reply. Won't you stir her up to answer my letter?

Life is very hectic here, particularly just now, but I seem to be bearing up under the strain. The family is all well.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 6 1932

Saint Paul

GUY STANTON FORD, PRESIDENT
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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

May 4, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

The Lincoln meeting turned out to be a great success. The registration reached nearly 140; the sessions were well attended; and the programs were on the whole of excellent quality. All things considered, I felt very happy about the affair. Hicks was elected president. The next meeting is to be held at Chicago. I put in an invitation for St. Paul, but this was not done with the expectation that the meeting would be held here in 1933. I suppose that there is a possibility of St. Paul being chosen for 1934.

Your report was read at the business meeting and was adopted by a formal vote of the Association. I was very much pleased to note that you included my name in your nominations for the Alvord Commission and I hasten to let you know that I shall be happy to serve with you on the Commission.

I promised Cole to write an account of the meeting for the M.V.H.R. and I am trying to get the thing done this week, though of course I found plenty of things waiting for my attention upon my return.

You were greatly missed at the meeting. I heard many inquiries about you and many expressions of regret that you were not present. If you had been there, you would have been called upon to make a little talk at the twenty-fifth anniversary dinner, for all ex-presidents who were present were introduced. That dinner was quite a gala affair.

You will be interested to know that the Society recently acquired the Torrance Civil War collection of approximately three thousand volumes. We have not yet unpacked it, but are expecting to do so in the near future. The near future, in this case, means when the bookstacks are completed. That job is nearly done, but it has been a slow affair. The Mayer volume is now in proof and we hope to get it out before long. Of course you know what the present status of the war history book is.

S.J.B. 5/4/32 -2-

The summer convention is looming up, and I am giving some thought just now to the program. The Schoolcraft celebration at Lake Itasca promises to be quite an affair. I should certainly be pleased if you and Elizabeth were able to join us in the tour.

With good wishes to the family,

Sincerely yours

Sharon C. Blaney

TCB/S

May 6, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Blegan,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

I was very glad, indeed, to get your letter of May 4 with its report of the Lincoln meeting. It is comforting, of course, to know that I was missed.

I think the meeting for 1934 should be in Pittsburgh rather than in Saint Paul. It won't do to let the people in this section forget that they live in the Mississippi Valley. I am, of course, delighted to learn that you have acquired the Torrance collection. Now, if you can only get the Jones Library, you will be in a fair way to having one of the greatest collections of American in the country.

I don't think there is much prospect of our being with you for the summer convention, much as we would enjoy it; in fact, we are planning a tour and convention of our own, which will probably come at the same time as yours. Our present tentative plan is to arrange, with the co-operation of the summer session of the University, a tour on Saturday, July 16, in the northwestern part of the state, following roughly Washington's route on his trip to Fort Le Boeuf, and continuing to Erie. It is quite likely that Elizabeth and I will start for the west immediately after this tour.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

P. S. - Mr. C. Stanton Belfour, a graduate student in history and assistant director of the Extension Division and the summer session, expects to be in the Twin Cities at the end of next week attending a meeting of extension directors. He plans to devote Saturday to visiting the Historical Society and the Sibley House and I will appreciate any courtesies that you may show him. As he will have charge on behalf of the summer session of the proposed tour about which I wrote you above, it would be helpful if you and Babcock would tell him some things about the Minnesota tours and show him some of your programs and other material.

S. J. B.

8

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 11 1932

Saint Paul

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May 9, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Thanks for your letter of May 6. We shall be looking for Mr. Belfour at the end of the week, and of course it will be a pleasure for us to talk to him about our summer trips -- though I doubt that there is anything we can add to what you have told him yourself.

The other evening I played host here at the Society to a Minneapolis book club. We arranged a rather extensive exhibit of early Minnesota imprints -- books, pamphlets, and newspapers. It proved to be quite an interesting affair.

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAN 20 1932

Saint Paul

GUY STANTON FORD, PRESIDENT
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GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

January 18, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Thanks for your letter of January 15. The article on "Catching the Red Man's Swan Song" will be duly noted in the magazine and I appreciate your taking the trouble to send this material. Thanks also for your tip about the Manton Marble collection. We shall certainly try to find out whether or not it contains papers on the trip to the Red River Valley.

You are evidently leading a strenuous life. It must seem strange to have summer in the middle of winter. I suspect that such unseasonal weather would knock me out. By the way, this matter of making speeches seems to be an epidemic. I have given about fifteen myself in the last three months, and there is no relief in sight. Just at present we are doing a series of radio talks, and the talks are being published in the Minnesota Alumni Weekly and, of all places, in the United States Daily. I discoursed on the French régime last Tuesday, and tomorrow G.L.N. talks about the British occupation.

The program for the Lincoln meeting continues to occupy a large share of my time; and the amount of correspondence that it necessitates is stupendous. I am trying to build up an interesting program, but I am running into plenty of disappointments.

Latest piece of news: Ritchey and six other members of the Macalester College faculty have lost their positions. *Confidential.*

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

P

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAR 30 1932

Saint Paul

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March 28, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Your comments on the changes in the format of Minnesota History naturally please me very much. Yes, our annual meeting was a pretty good one, and the local history conference went off well. Weicht led off with a really notable little paper. I am sending you a few copies of it, also some of my Report. Thanks for the copy of your March 19 program. I wish I could have attended all three of the sessions of your conference, for they all touched lines of work and interest that we have been following.

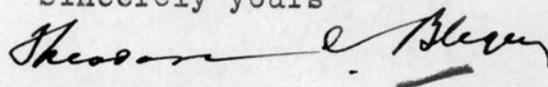
I was much amused by the anecdote about the lady and your magazine. As to the lady, let her snort on. You have made an admirable magazine from every point of view. By the way, except for the opening article, I think I read every word of your February number. It is good stuff. You amaze me by the quickness with which you have adjusted yourself both to the practical and to the historical problems of Western Pennsylvania.

I am looking into the question of the Ramsey letters and also of Mrs. White's memoirs and will write to you later on these points. I am also reminding Miss Krausnick of your inquiry about the filing of serials.

Your reaction to Miss Skinner's review was about what I expected. You will appreciate Miss Kellogg's remark that the review was too much Skinner and too little voyageur.

I am getting ready for the April meeting of the council. Fortunately, I am now through with the M.V.H.A. program business, which was very burdensome. The state Republican convention was held not long ago and declared for a straight cut of five million dollars in appropriations.

Sincerely yours



TCB/S

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1757 West Minnehaha Street
St. Paul, Minn.
April 1, 1932

Dear Steve:

I believe that you will win out completely in the ruction that you describe in your letter of March 26, but I certainly do not blame you for feeling a little pessimistic if there is a prospect of having to meet continuously such pig-headedness. It is really too bad that providence or fate did not send the treasurer, rather than the president, to the hospital. I agree with you that, given the circumstances that you mention, a good stiff backbone should have been exhibited in the face of the petitioners. Even if a good many of them had withdrawn, the society would still have gone on and in time it would have made up any temporary setback. Notwithstanding the yielding by the treasurer, I am persuaded that you will be completely the master of the situation. The lady will certainly have to get out, whther her departure is eased or delayed or not. And time will be on your side. Don't forget that. So I am confident, knowing you, that it is only a matter of time until you have the whole crowd supporting your position and you.

I am certainly very sorry that, on top of all the work of reorganizing and planning, you should have this fracas to bother or worry you. It is the devil to have somebody throw a wrench into the machinery, especially when you are just getting the engine to run smoothly.

From your letter I assume that the council meeting will be held about April 10 and that you will then know more definitely what direction the affair will take. Let me know about developments. Meanwhile, though my humble judgment is that you will not want to resign at Pittsburgh and that in the end you will be the stronger for all this and have the best crowd absolutely behind you, I will be glad to do a little sounding at the University. You know that I would be glad at any time to try to work out some scheme whereby you could do editorial work or carry on specific research projects for the Society. It is true, as you say, that we are probably facing retrenchment rather than expansion, but I would be willing to study the matter of finances very carefully and would do my best to promote such an arrangement. I think something along this line could be done, but I am not so clear as to the situation at the University, which, as you know, is a little top-heavy in American history. I might, in certain circumstances, ~~to~~ reduce my own work at the University nearly to the vanishing point, provided of course that I could work out a salary adjustment at this end. Well, the main thing just now is to assure you that so far as I am concerned I would go as far as I could to promote your return here in case you felt compelled to resign at Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,
Leo

May 26, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

Thank you for sending me the copy of the Minnesota Alumni Weekly containing your "Some Aspects of Minnesota Pioneer Life". I read it with much interest and am filing it away. You certainly have developed a very effective literary style for popular audiences.

I want to thank you for the trouble that you took with Mr. Belfour when he was in Saint Paul. He appears to have been much impressed by the Minnesota Historical Society and to be somewhat at a loss to understand why I should have left it for this institution. He and Holbrook are making good progress in their plans for our summer tour.

The tenant in my house in Minneapolis has just notified me that he does not desire to renew the lease, which expires July 1. If you know or hear of anyone who might be interested in either buying or renting, please let me know. It has been renting at \$65.00 a month, which is very cheap but doubtless all that I can get. I would sell it for a very small down payment to a responsible person. Possibly you may hear of some new members of the faculty who will need a house. I haven't much hope of renting it during the summer.

Have you heard anything about the Folwell volume that I edited for the University Press? I wonder if it has been abandoned.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF MUSEUM

June 7, 1932

Dear Steve,

I have been intending for a long time to drop you a personal letter, but in the excitement and under the pressure of budget-making, the governor's proposal to cut June salaries in half, finishing up the Mayer book, getting out the June magazine, reading half a dozen theses and attending oral examinations, meeting my classes, editing the Gjerset manuscript (without having the job brightened by the help of E. H. B.), making three commencement speeches, writing up the Lincoln meeting for Cole, getting ready for the summer convention, and a score or so of other things, I have neglected most of the more important things of life.

I intended to let you know that I sounded out Lester in the matter of your possible return to the history department on some such general arrangement as you mentioned in your letter. Among other things I touched on the possibility of your doing the general American history, but I rather judge that he has other plans in that connection. On the whole, it seemed to me that Lester was not particularly encouraging, but you will understand that the matter was naturally somewhat general. What his reaction would be if a specific proposal were put before him I can't say.

Your second installment was read with great interest. It looks to me as though the episode were wrapped up, labelled, and shelved. I don't see how the matter, given the special circumstances, could have been handled better.

What a shame your tenant is not renewing the lease on your house. Clara and I will see if we can run down any clues to possible renters or purchasers, and if there is any luck we shall let you know. I am going to see if I can stir anything at the University.

I called Livia Appel about the Folwell book. She indicated that the general plan was to publish next winter and she mentioned February, 1933, the centenary of Dr. F's birth. I judged that none of the ms. has yet been sent to press.

We enjoyed meeting Mr. Belfour. He seemed to be a fine fellow.

I asked Thompson to send you a review copy of my book. Probably you have received it by this time. I shall certainly be pleased to see it reviewed in your magazine.

Rev. ref. of Leodius in Am. Mining.

Your last number I found very interesting, especially your report and the section on "The New Immigration." I think you have made a very promising start in getting the cooperation of so many people and organizations.

May I offer two little criticisms on the printing or form of the magazine. I would suggest lifting the title on the title page a little. I think it will look better. The pages generally might be set a little higher than they are. Your top margin strikes me as being a trifle too wide. BLH thinks that the illustration opposite p. 121 should have been placed higher.

By the way, I have managed to produce a little review of Holbrook's Survey and have squeezed it into the June number. BLH was considerably disturbed about how to handle the title at the head of the review and she does not quite approve of the way I decided upon. I enclose a proof.

Well, I am off for lunch. Wish you were here to join me. Give my regards to Elizabeth.

Sincerely yours,

Jed

June 15, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:-

I was glad to learn from your letter of June 7 that you are not suffering from unemployment, and under the circumstances I much appreciate your taking the time to write me a letter.

The review copy of your book has arrived and I am hoping to get the review in time for our August number.

Your criticisms of the printing of our magazine are appreciated. I agree with you that the pages should be set higher. I am not so sure about the title page, however. We had the title higher on the page in the first issue but decided to lower it a little. There are many other respects in which the magazine might be improved typographically but it will take time to work them out.

The review of Holbrook's Survey was much appreciated, - also, the separate of your "Leaders in American Immigration". I read this with much interest and am going to pass it on to some of the people around here who are interested in the recent immigration. I was particularly interested in the reference on pages 9 and 10 to the magazine edited by Reiersen. Is there a file of this in this country and, if so, where? I ought to get hold of it for the Travel Bibliography. Do you have complete bibliographical data about it? I am not sure from what you say about it whether I should want to list the periodical as a whole or make separate entries for material in it.

I appreciate the interest that you and Clara are taking in the matter of my Minneapolis house. I wrote to Ford and Shippee about it and also to Dean Lawrence. I did not write to the housing bureau of the University as I did not know who had charge of it. I have written to several real-estate dealers and have heard from two or three of them but their letters are not very encouraging.

Elizabeth and the children are now in Florida and it is very quiet around the house.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

JUL 7 1932

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July 5, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I have heard nothing from Dexter. If any word comes from him, I shall let you know promptly. Meanwhile, we are on the alert for any other possibilities.

Miss Heilbron and I were very happy to read your comment on the Mayer book. There was a full-page feature story about the book in the Minneapolis Journal a week or two ago. From various indications I am inclined to think that the volume will make a hit with our members.

I received a letter today from Mr. Fickes of Pittsburgh ordering the Mayer book and also the three N.A.H.A. publications.

We have sent you a bound copy of Minnesota History for 1931. You may send us your unbound copies if you wish to, but there is no charge for this volume.

I, too, have been thinking of Ritchey as a good man for the position of field agent, but I am afraid that there is not money enough to finance the job. It is my hope, however, to try to make available a little money for this purpose, even if it means only a couple of hundred dollars.

We certainly wish that you were to be here for the tour. Some other summer we must try to arrange for it. If you will consent to give a talk or read a paper, perhaps I can manage to get something for your expenses.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours

Theodore C. Blegen

TCB/S

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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August 6, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Grand Portage, Minnesota

Dear Steve:

We have decided to spend part of our vacation at Sandy Lake and are driving up on Monday to McGregor.

I am sorry not to have answered earlier your card and Elizabeth's note, but I had to make an unexpected trip to Chicago and did not get time to write before I left. I think Clara wrote you about our plans, however.

It would be pleasant to see you and Elizabeth again, and if you should happen to drive anywhere near Sandy Lake, please plan to stop at McGregor. We shall be at one of William P. Ingersoll's cabins. Ingersoll is the man who, with Mr. Hart, explored the Savanna portage and the site of the Northwest Company's post at Sandy Lake.

I am enclosing a copy of the circular that Qualey used in connection with his work as field agent for the N.A.H.A.

Sincerely yours

Thompson & B.

TCB/S

Handed by hand.

1757 W. Minnehaha St.
St. Paul, Minn
July 31.

Bly

Dear Elizabeth and Steve:-

Ted left for Chicago this morning and I find your card and letter left in very plain sight in my desk. So I infer that he did not answer them from the Society yesterday.

We have finally decided to give up all thought of going to Grand Portage this year. Ted and I are very much disappointed, for we both love the place. And I am sure that nothing could give Ted so much of the rest he needs as could the quiet and beauty of that bay. But we must take the children with us this year, and we want them to

improve in swimming and handling the boat, and warmer water is rather important. So we have about decided to go to Whitefish Lake. It has been a temptation to us to go to Cass, but the Salmon house which is available there is on the other shore of the Island, and we didn't care for that shore when we were there.

I am grateful for Steve's card on which he refers to Sig Olson. From the letter he wrote us we had no idea whether the signature belonged to a man or a woman, and it is still unanswered. But a note to him is also being written today.

We are sorry not to see you at Cass Lake. Please come back to Minnesota soon, but do choose a cooler time when next you come.

Sincerely,

Clara W. Blegen

SEP 2 1932

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August 31, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Thank you for sending the story from the Pittsburgh Press of August 28 about our dear old friend, the Kensington rune stone. It makes a grand feature story, doesn't it?

I was glad to get a copy of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine for August. Will you tell Miss Mitchell that I liked her review of my book very much?

I was interested in reading about the Pennsylvania historical convention to be held in September.

Sincerely yours

Ted

TCB/SL

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT 14 1932

Saint Paul

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October 12, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Volume 2 of the war history is off the press, and I am having a copy mailed to you this afternoon.

Everything seems to be going smoothly. The Council had its fall meeting last Monday evening. Our budget was turned in some time ago, but as yet I know nothing as to the action of the Budget Commission.

The University is under way and life, as usual at this time of year, is very strenuous.

Good wishes to you and Elizabeth.

Sincerely yours

Jed

TCB/S

October 17, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Ted:-

Thanks for volume 2 of the war history. It has been examined, read (?), and shelved beside volume 1. It is a nice looking book and I am proud to have my name connected with it.

Thanks, also, for sending me one of your new forms to accompany clippings. It is very neat. I admire your courage in writing a note on the clipping and then sending it as third-class mail.

I have solved this problem a little differently for the present. Instead of sending clippings, I send the whole page with the item marked in blue pencil. We use a rubber stamp on the top of the page that reads "From the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, Vol. --". We fill in the blank with the volume number, and the running heading of the page gives the date.

I have received a long and most interesting letter from Qualey about his work. I am sure that anyone who writes as good a letter as he does will be a credit to the institutions with which he has been connected.

Sometime ago I wrote to Miss Krausnick about the possibility of our getting your duplicate files of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review but I have had no reply. I will appreciate it if you will remind her of this.

By the way, my house is still vacant. I would lease it as low as \$50.00 a month to a responsible family who would take good care of the property.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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November 12, 1932

Dear Steve:-

Knowing of your continued interest in the work of the NAHA, I am sending you a copy of a report that I have just smashed out on the typewriter for a meeting of the Association at Ottawa, Illinois, next week.

Qualey wrote me that you had asked him to let you see a copy of his report as field agent; and I think you will be interested to know how I have acted on his recommendations.

Your letter in re a grant-in-aid reached me a day or two ago, and I am taking the matter up vigorously with Ritchey. Thank you for the suggestion.

Gov. Olson has won out for reelection by a majority of 150,000 or more, as you doubtless have observed in the reports. We expected him to win, but the size of his majority, in view of the fact that Brown was promising the voters a flat cut of \$5,000,000 in appropriations, was unanticipated.

By this time, the budget recommendations of the administration are probably ready, but as yet I do not know what action has been taken on the Society's budget. I suppose we are in for a sharp cut, but just where it will catch us is so far unknown.

Not long ago I accepted an invitation to be a member of the Informal Club, and at the first meeting I heard many nice comments on your participation in the club.

If this succession to honors and memberships that you held keeps up, who knows, I may someday wake up and discover that I have become famous!

Just as I was finishing this note I received from C. V. Starrett an announcement of "Interpreting Pittsburgh Through Its Past." I shall look forward to reading the article.

Sincerely yours

Jed

TCB/S

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

9

November 16, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Ted:

Thank you for sending me the copy of your report to the NAHA. I read it with much interest and I am proud of you. I have also read Qualey's report on his field work. It seems to me that he accomplished much in a short time and at very small expense. If I could find the time, I should like to make a survey of the historical field work that has been done and is being done in the United States. I expect to urge the Joint Committee to support additional projects of this sort.

I had learned of the re-election of Governor Olson, of course, and I understand that Minnesota has elected five farmer-labor congressmen, three Republicans and one Democrat, but I have not seen their names as yet. I am palpitating to know whether or not Magnus Johnson and Theodore Christianson are going to Congress.

I am very glad to know that you are a member of the Informal Club. Its meetings are frequently interesting and they serve the purpose of giving one an insight into the workings of the "best minds" at Saint Paul.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

NOV 21 1932

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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November 18, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I hasten to relieve your palpitation by telling you that Magnus Johnson stood first in the Minnesota congressional election. Theodore Christianson and Ray P. Chase stood respectively fifth and sixth. The other successful candidates were Paul J. Kvale, Henry Arens, Ernest Lundeen, Einar Hoidale, F. H. Shoemaker, and Harold Knutson.

I regret to tell you that Henry N. Benson was defeated for reelection to the office of Attorney General.

Hastily yours

Ted

TCB/S

December 8, 1932

Dr. Theodore C. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

Doubtless you have received your program for the American Historical Association meeting. Would you care to occupy a double room with me? If so, fill in my name on your blank and I will put yours on mine. I will wait until I hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

P

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEC 23 1932

Saint Paul

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December 21, 1932

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
Bigelow Blvd. & Parkman Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Until yesterday I did not know whether or not I should be able to attend the Toronto meeting. Reasons: delay of governor in authorizing trip; flu at home. I now have the authorization and I have decided to go. In sending in my reservation I have asked to be placed with you if possible. Sorry I am so late about answering your note. I am looking forward to seeing you and talking about a thousand and one things.

Sincerely

Jed

TCB/R

January 4, 1933.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

✓
✓
Herewith I am sending you the syllabus and list of books that I used for the "View Points" at Minnesota. I should like to have the list of books returned, but you may keep the syllabus as I have other copies of it.

If you could spare me four or five separates of Babcock's article in the last Minnesota History I could make good use of them. I would also like to have a clipping of the review of Books for Children.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

SJB:H

P

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MAR 20 1933

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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March 18, 1933

Dear Steve:

This is one of my Saturday letters, carefully punched out on the typewriter by myself. You know my special method -- four fingers, hunt and hit. Only, sometimes I hit the wrong place.

Thanks for your letter recommending Gates. He needs no recommendation as far as I am concerned, for I have a very high opinion of him. Still, your judgment about him interests me and I was glad to have your note. Apropos of your allusion to Gates as the most promising student, with one exception, that you had at Minnesota, I fully agree that Qualey is excellent stuff.

We are still uncertain about next year. No action has yet been taken on the budget by the legislature. I am not yet clear as to how far the private funds will go in 1933-34. Until the air is cleared a little, I have decided to make no promises about positions on the staff. If anybody is taken on, Gates will certainly be given serious consideration.

I had a letter from Pritchett the other day. He did not get a Guggenheim, and evidently things are so much up in the air at North Dakota that he is afraid he will not be kept on. He writes that the North Dakota Historical Quarterly is to be suspended. I wish I could find a place on our staff for Pritchett.

If the financial and legislative storms do not prevent me from leaving St. Paul, I intend to be at the Chicago meeting. It will be nice to see you again.

Lehman, still filled with hostility for the society, is doing his best to spike our budget. Curious, isn't it, that he should cherish such bitter feeling against the society? He has asked the House Committee for permission to appear against our budget. His aim is to narrow the society down to a strictly state department, cutting out a lot of our activities, including publication of the magazine, our summer tours, etc. I am hoping to be able to meet him with full vigor.

Please give my regards to Elizabeth. I miss her genial aid in getting out the N.A.H.A. publications. I am still clinging to that job, but I must give it up before long. The Gjerset book was a pesky thing to put through.

Probably you have heard from Miss Folwell. She has written me once or twice about the new Folwell book, but I don't quite grasp the points at issue.

Yours as ever,

See

4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March 22, 1933.

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

The budget of news in your letter of March 18 was of great interest to me. I am very much puzzled about Lehman. I cannot figure out the motives or influences back of his activities but perhaps it is a psychopathic case. Perhaps it would be well for you to let it be known that he was once an employee of the society and that his work was not entirely satisfactory. He certainly comes about as near to being a viper as anyone I have ever known.

No, I have not heard from Miss Folwell. I expected that she would find something wrong with the book but I have no idea what it is.

Mrs. Paine has asked me for a report on the Alvord Commission and I shall appreciate it if you will let me have in the near future a statement of the present status and future prospects of the work that you and Ritchey are doing for the Commission.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of addressing the freshman class of the Carnegie Institute of Technology on the Agrarian Crusade and of lunching afterwards with the history department. This afternoon I speak before a D. A. R. chapter in one of the suburbs of Pittsburgh. It looks as if the next five or six weeks would be rather strenuous for me. Early in April I have to go to Morgantown, West Virginia, to speak before a local historical society, the MVHA meeting comes the middle of the month, and at the end of the month our new Pennsylvania Historical Association meets at Bethlehem. In between these two meetings the Buck family is going to move.

I have rented my house in Minneapolis to Dr. Russell W. Morse until September first. He is to pay the magnificent rental of \$25.00 a month and has the privilege of spending as much of that as he may deem necessary in putting the place into condition. I am in hopes that he will renew the lease at a more reasonable rental and that ultimately he may buy. In the meantime, however, I should be glad to hear of anyone else who might be interested in renting or buying in the fall.

I am finding life somewhat more congenial here this year than I did last. My acquaintance among members of the faculty and others has extended somewhat, of course, and last night I became a member of the Rhinoceros, a discussion club somewhat similar to the Dining Club at the University of Minnesota.

Elizabeth seems to be enjoying her teaching and I think she is somewhat more content with Pittsburgh than she was last year.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

8
Blegen

MAR 27 1933

1757 West Minnehaha Street
St. Paul, Minn.
March 24, 1933

Dear Steve:-

The little comedy reached a crisis today, and I thought you might be amused to hear about it. Your letter reached me this morning only a few hours before the hearing before the House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to come off. I was greatly interested in your comment that Lehman's work was not entirely satisfactory.

Well, I had planned things out very carefully. Senator Lawson agreed to attend the hearing and to participate, and he had also done a little preliminary talking to some members of the committee. Mr. Cutler and Mr. Ingersoll also came up for the affair, both of them well primed. I had seen various members of the House committee, talked matters over with Mrs. Wittich, who was also present, and prepared myself for every possible point that I could imagine Mr. Lehman bringing up. As I believe I told you, he had gone to Chairman Pfaender and secured a promise that he could appear after I had presented the budget. He had stated that he would attack sundry items in the budget and bring out some damaging facts. He intended, he said, to call for the discontinuance of all publication, the cutting out of various activities, and a drastic slash in our appropriation.

So the stage was set. And -- at the last minute our dear friend Mr. Lehman backed out! Just before I was called up, he went up to Mr. Pfaender and whispered something. Mr. Pfaender stood up and announced to the committee that it had been expected that a certain gentleman would oppose the Historical Society budget but that the gentleman in question had withdrawn his name. I was then introduced and in a very friendly atmosphere I proceeded to explain and defend the budget. Mr. Lehman was present throughout the proceedings.

What happened was this. Mr. Lehman arrived alone for the hearing. I came in with Lawson, Ingersoll, and Cutler. For about ten minutes the three of us chatted with Mr. Pfaender and various other members of the committee. Mr. Pfaender said very audibly that we had nothing to fear from his committee, that he himself had the highest regard and appreciation for the Society. One member of the committee asked me who in hell Lehman was. I said he had once been a member of our staff. He asked, "Was he fired?" I said no, he resigned in midyear after some criticism from the then superintendent, who, by the way, I remarked, has just written me that Mr. Lehman's work was not entirely satisfactory. The member said that he would ask some soul-searching questions of Lehman. Meanwhile Mr. Ingersoll went over to talk to Mr. Lehman and told him that if he followed the line of his letter he would make a jackass of himself before the committee. After some talk, in which Mr. L. said that he placed high value on the society and its work, Mr. Ingersoll asked him why, if this was the case, he planned a public attack that, whether or not he made a fool of himself, could not help hurting the society. Mr. Ingersoll suggested that Mr. L. might talk matters over with him, Mr. Ingersoll, and perhaps get a hearing before our Executive Committee. Just then the Approp.

Comm. was called to order, Mr. L. went up to the chairman and withdrew his name, and everything went off very sweetly! I wish you had been there.

One of the points that Mr. L. intended to bring up was that the state law library costs much less than our society! He was going to propose that our librarian be eliminated and that the supt. take over the librarian's work! Believe me, I was ready to reduce that point to an absurdity.

I think you are right, that there is something psychopathic about L. Well, I shall let him blow off steam to the Executive Committee sometime. If he starts his threatened lawsuit, I think we can meet him without difficulty.

* * * * *

The asterisks indicate that I am dropping the subject.

Meanwhile, though both the House and Senate committees were very friendly to me, it is apparent that we, as well as every other department and the University, will be sadly cut. The salary cuts probably will go to at least twenty percent on salaries over \$1200. I argued vigorously for payless vacations instead of schedule cuts. My own salary, combining the society and the university work, probably will be cut a thousand dollars. Sweet prospect!

I see that you are taking on a lot of speeches. So, alas, am I. Curiously, I am going to talk on the "agrarian crusade" -- fine phrase, that. A radio talk next Monday. I talked to the Women's City Club in St. Paul the other day and drew down twenty-five bucks. Next week I go to Mankato to talk in a memorial program in honor of the late Mr. Pay. I am later going up to Park Rapids for the organization of a county society in Hubbard County. So it goes.

We are all waiting with bated breath to see your magazine in its new design. Green already, we shall be greener still with envy.

I am not going to write you about Miss Folwell's ramblings. To tell the truth, they are almost incoherent.

How I wish I could help you to find somebody who would buy your house or take it on lease at a good rental.

Gates passed his preliminary examination the other day and did very well, though hardly as well as the committee expected. He is a fine fellow.

Willoughby and Grace Lee are both on the M.V.H.S. program and I believe I am scheduled to preside at a session -- rather much M.H.S. on one program.

And now to bed after a strenuous day.

Please say hello to Elizabeth from me. We continue to miss you both a great deal. Who knows, some day we may get together again on some joint job. If my salary keeps going down I shall probably begin to cast longing eyes eastward.

Ever yours,

Ed

1757 West Minnehaha Street
St. Paul
June 27, 1933

7

Dear Steve:-

The weather is very hot and I am turning aside from the preparation of a summer school lecture to write some letters, with you as the first victim.

I enjoyed reading your May magazine and especially Mr. Baldwin's clever review of Mike Fink.

Sometime in the far future I may offer you an article for your Western Penn. Hist. Mag. Do not take alarm. The thing is little more than an idea at present. After finding some items bearing upon the subject of "Pennsylvania and the Upper Mississippi Valley," I have established a file for information pertinent to that subject, and it may ultimately amount to something. This fits in with my hobby of interstate history. Minnesota has had several governors of Pennsylvania origin; Jane Grey Swisshelm, of course, comes into my story; there ~~was~~ a considerable Pennsylvania contingent in the early population of the state; and now and then I find special items of interest. I hardly dare mention to you that we have discovered in this fair North Star State a file of Mrs. Swisshelm's Pittsburgh Visiter, for I am afraid that you may want to snag it for your society.

I have just returned from a trip to western Minnesota, where I spoke on Sunday to a crowd of five thousand people. The occasion was the dedication of the Old Crossing Treaty Monument.

As usual, I am teaching in summer school -- and sweltering.

Legal history is all to the good, but why, oh why, in a country of 120,000,000 people, did you put someone on my particular trail for a paper on "Archives and Legal History"? One of these days I am going to start a new national association with the sole purpose of making you deliver a paper on some similar subject. For example, the Association for the Study of American Immigration History. Your paper will be entitled "Verhovayak Lapja, Szabadsag, Paivalehti, and Nowiny Mimesockie as Sources for Studies in Cultural Change with Special Reference to Immigrants, with a Brief Consideration of the Meaning of Culture, of Change, and of Immigrants, a Summary Report on Collateral Materials in European and American Archives, and an Analysis, with Tables, of the Immigrant Factor in Poker." The discussion will be opened by Elizabeth Buck, who will take up the strictly literary aspects of the subject, considering especially the effects of climate on phonology as illustrated in the Gopher y and i and in Pittsburgh coal dust and new immigrant names that are pronounced with volleys of sneezes. Perhaps she will want to drag in Munch Ræder, but she will have to remember that there will be a time limit to the discussion. George M. and I will take up the discussion where she drops it.

And now, as Theodore Pease once remarked in a letter that you very kindly left as a legacy for me to deal with, it is hot.

Devotedly yours,

led

June 30, 1933

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Ted:

I find that, if I do not answer letters immediately, they are likely to go for a long time unanswered, so here is my prompt response to your interesting communication of June 27th. I am glad that you liked the last number of our magazine. I think it was the best one we have got out. An evening of my valuable time was devoted to the June number of Minnesota History recently with much pleasure and profit. I liked the Governor's remarks very much and I suspect that the Minnesota Historical Society had something to do with their preparation. I also liked the communication from Wesley. I felt much as he did about Nevins' review. Tell Miss Heilbron that I found a grammatical error in the first review by Alice Tyler. That review, by the way, would have been much improved by condensation.

I am, of course, very much interested in the prospect of getting an article from you on "Pennsylvania and the Upper Mississippi Valley." It seems to me that an aspect of the history of all the states, east of the Great Plains, at least, that has been much neglected is that of emigration from the states and their relation to the regions farther west. If you could include in your paper some statistics based on the early censuses of the number of Pennsylvanians in Minnesota, that might add to its value. The importance of Pennsylvania and especially of western Pennsylvania in the settlement of the Middle West has been lost sight of in the discussion of the relative importance of the New England and southern elements.

As you anticipated, your reference to a file of Mrs. Swisshelm's Pittsburgh Visitor makes me covetous. In view of the fact that it was published in Pittsburgh and of the further fact that you have such a wealth of newspapers while we have so few, I really think you ought to get it for us instead of for the MHS. If we cannot have it, I trust that it will be possible for us to get photostatic copies.

I take it from the tenor of your remarks that you are going to do the paper on "Archives and Legal History". I suggested you because I knew you would do a good job and it is a real opportunity. It gives you a chance to capitalize on the work that you did with archives for the Wisconsin Historical Society and to get some fundamental ideas before the legal lights of the country. I have hopes that the "American Legal History Society" that is in the process of formation will really amount to something. My own interest in it, of course, is primarily from the point of view of preserving, inventorying, and making available legal records for the social and economic, as well as the legal, material contained in them.

(over)

Dr. Theodore C. Hegen

- 2 -

June 30, 1933

If you have any difficulty in gathering ideas for the paper, just let your imagination run riot as you did in your letter and I am sure that the result will be very stimulating.

Have you had any copies of Minnesota History for 1933 bound up? If so, please have one sent to me and I will return the unbound copies and 50¢, if that is still the cost of binding.

Give our best regards to Mrs. Hegen and the members of the staff and tell them that we are desolated at the thought of not visiting Minnesota this summer.

Sincerely yours,

Edson J. Buck

SJB:AM

P
Blugan

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1757 West Minnehaha Street
St. Paul
Aug. 2, 1933

Dear Steve:-

I thought you might be interested in seeing my report of publications for 1932-33. Here is a carbon.

One goes through the form each year of drawing up such a statement, not that it does one any good either at the University or elsewhere.

The first summer session is over, thank goodness, and in a few days I hope to push north with my family for a little vacation. We have our eyes on a jewel of a lake near Park Rapids. With characteristic Minnesota felicity it has been named Potato Lake.

It would be pleasant to see you. I judge, however, that you are not coming out to Minnesota this summer.

With regards to all the Bucks,

As ever,

J. C. B.

Theodore C. Blegen
Writings 1932-1933.

The Unfinished Autobiography of Henry Hastings Sibley: Together with a Selection of Hitherto Unpublished Letters from the Thirties. Minneapolis: Voyageur Press. 1932. 75 pages.

"Discovery of Lake Itasca by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft." Souvenir Schoolcraft Centennial, 8-28. Bemidji, 1932.

"The Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association." Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 19: 243-254. 1932.

"Starting a Town in Pioneer Times." Norden, 4: 9-11. 1932.

"Minnesota in the Days of the Civil War." Minnesota Alumni Weekly, 32: 319-320. 1933.

"The Farmers' Crusade in Minnesota." Ibid., 32: 511-512. 1933.

"The Minnesota Historical Society in 1932." Minnesota History, 14: 59-71. 1933.

Preface to B. L. Heilbron, With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier in 1851. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1932.

Preface to Knut Gjerset, Norwegian Sailors in American Waters. Northfield: Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1933.

Review of G. M. Stephenson, Religious Aspects of Swedish Immigration, in Minnesota History, 13: 304-307. 1932.

Review of F. F. Holbrook, Survey of Activities of American Agencies, in ibid., 13: 184-185. 1932.

Review of J. B. Hedges, Henry Villard and the Railways of the Northwest, in Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 19: 443-445. 1932.

Review of J. D. Hicks, The Populist Revolt, in American Historical Review, 38: 347-349. 1933.

Abstracts in Social Science Abstracts, 1932: 20598, 20603, 20647, 22519.

Editor

Minnesota History: A Quarterly Magazine, 1932-33.

Norwegian-American Studies and Records, Vol. 7, 1933.

P

August 7, 1933

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Ted:

I did not need the list of your publications to convince me that you have been busy during the past year but I was glad to see it, nevertheless. The University of Pittsburgh does the same sort of thing but, having less in the way of achievement to report, it also publishes lists of work in progress not only by members of the faculty but also by graduate students, including candidates for the master's degree. Some of the items, I suspect, represent work in contemplation rather than in progress.

I envy you your Minnesota lake, with its romantic name. Why not call it Lake Pomme de Terre? We still have no plans for vacation, though I expect to take some time off in September.

I am enclosing a couple of cards with the titles of some items that I ran across recently, which may be of interest to you. The Fisk material you are doubtless familiar with.

I think that Dr. Morse is going to rent my house for another year, though the contract is not signed as yet.

How is the "New Deal" working in Minnesota? It has been suggested around here that a naked fish should be substituted for the blue eagle. Figure that out, Watson!

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Back

SJB:AM