



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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FEB 12 1934

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

February 9, 1934

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

We opened the enclosed letter, assuming that it was something intended for this society. It appears, however, to be a response to something you have recently sent.

I hope that you and your family are all well. We are staggering on here in a reasonably cheerful frame of mind.

I am sending you within a day or two a reprint of a talk on Lincoln that I perpetrated some time ago. It was an excursion outside my field and I suppose I will live to regret it.

Please remember me to Elizabeth, who by the way will be interested to know that I am directing a University C.A.W. project in the Norwegian-American field, the fruits of which I hope will ultimately go into the next volume of Norwegian Migration to America.

Sincerely yours

T.C.B.

T.C.B./R
Enc.

29 P.S. Did you know that Dr. Upham died - on January
? Willoughby and I were among the fall brass.
T.C.B.

MAR 23 1934

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March 21, 1934

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I have been so occupied with our CWA survey of county archives that I have not found time even to answer letters in the last week or two, but I must not wait any longer with a letter of thanks to you for your note of March 7. Since I received your letter I have read your report, so that I have a pretty fair idea of Western Pennsylvania developments.

I agree with you that the question of adequate support for historical activities is fundamental. Unfortunately I am not getting very specific information on finances in response to my letters of inquiry.

It is amazing to observe how uneven historical activities are throughout the Valley. I mean that in some states I find nothing done through CWA assistance, whereas in other states such assistance has been carried very far. Michigan, for example, has done nothing in CWA, but in Colorado there has been a great project involving the work of thirty-two people. Here in Minnesota we have been too modest in our requests for CWA assistance, but even so we have at present a working force of ninety-five people. We have had seven or eight here at the society since December; we have a group of three who are working on the Catholic historical collection at St. Paul Seminary; and we have a squad of seventy-two working at county courthouses, with ten state supervisors and some secretarial help here at the society. With all this going on, I think you can imagine about how busy we have been.

I am appalled at the thought of having to write any kind of survey for the meeting of the M.V.H.A., and I regret that I promised to do any such thing. I may say that I have learned to be a little wiser about promising to do things than I was a few years ago, but even so, I find it rather easy to tell people that I will do this or that. For example, even today, a busy day, I find that I am supposed to stop at 2:30 P.M. and give a talk to a club that is visiting the society.

I wish I could have a long talk with you. There are many things I should like to talk over, but in the midst of this

S.J.B. 3/21/34 -2-

hectic life I do not seem to get time to sit down at my typewriter and write.

As ever,

sed

TCB/R

P

April 18, 1934

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

Dear Ted:

I have spent a whole evening reading the March number of Minnesota History and, as usual, I want to congratulate you upon it. I like the new heading for the first page very much. It is more successful than ours but we have had a very difficult title to deal with. One suggestion that I would offer is that, whenever possible, you have an illustration as a frontispiece to break the abrupt transition from the inside cover to the first page of text. I would also suggest that, as soon as you can afford it, you have the magazine sewed instead of stapled, especially as the numbers are getting to be rather thick.

Have you had any copies of Volume 14 bound up? If so, I should like very much to get one to match the rest of my set. If you will have one sent to me, I shall be glad to pay the binding charge and to return the unbound copies.

I have received your report on the Fisk materials and on the basis of it I can, at least, report progress.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Back

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 4 1934

Saint Paul

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

May 2, 1934

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4338 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I think you will be interested in looking over the survey that I presented at the Columbia meeting. I have no plans for its publication, and so far as I know now it will not be published. I wish there were some convenient way in which I could distribute it to about fifty historical societies, however.

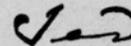
I think we are making a mistake in tucking the historical society conference away in a corner of the M.V.H.A. meeting and also in announcing it as a conference of directors. I am proposing that next year we arrange it as a regular session of the association for the consideration of state and regional problems.

I was sorry that you were not present at the meeting, for I have been looking forward to having a chance to talk with you. Oliver was there and I appreciated getting greetings from the Bucks through him.

We were all naturally very much pleased by the election of Shippee to the presidency of the association.

I was asked to present your report on the Alvord Commission at the business meeting. There was no action taken on it at that meeting, but I understand that the executive committee elected the new members on the basis of your recommendation.

Sincerely



TCB/H

May 9, 1934

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

Dear Ted:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your paper entitled "Some Aspects of Historical Work Under the New Deal." I have read it with very great interest and I certainly think that it ought to have extensive circulation among historical societies. Some time ago Bourne asked me to write an article on recent state historical activities for the American Historical Review but I was obliged to decline. He has probably made arrangements for some one else to do it but I am going to take the liberty of suggesting to him that, if such other arrangements have not been made, this article of yours with, perhaps, some additions about the eastern societies might fill the bill. If that does not work out, I shall suggest to Cole that your article be published in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. It may be, of course, that the reproduction of some fifty copies by multigraph or offset printing and their distribution to historical societies would serve the main purpose; but, on the whole, I think the article ought to be printed. It is valuable not only for its present suggestiveness but also as a permanent record of historical activity in a critical period.

I was delighted to learn that Shippee is to be president of the MVHA. I have not yet heard where and when the next meeting is to be but I shall be there if possible. To have attended the meeting this year would have involved more time and expense than I could spare. Last week I attended the second annual meeting of our Pennsylvania Historical Association at Harrisburg. The third meeting is to be held in Pittsburgh next spring and that will mean a lot of work for me.

I was interested in your remarks with reference to the historical society conference at the MVHA meeting and it occurs to me that perhaps you are not fully aware of the history of this conference. At the outset it was a private conference of directors of state historical activity, especially of those associated in the co-operative work in Washington. Other directors were invited in in the hope of getting their co-operation also and then the conference was listed in the program as the easiest way of establishing a time and place for it. No programs were announced as long as I had anything to do with it and the early conferences, in the nature of business affairs, were always very fruitful. Unfortunately, as it seems to me, the makers of programs have tended to develop this into a regular session. Probably it is worth while to have such a session on each program open to the public but I think that it would be worth while to have also the private conference of directors at which they could freely talk over their problems and ways and means of helping each other.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

PERSONAL

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May 11, 1934

Dear Steve:

Your letter of May 9 reached me just a few minutes ago. Of course I was pleased by your interest in my Columbia paper. If by any chance Bourne should care to do something with it, I would be glad to enlarge its scope both eastward and westward. I don't doubt that you would be willing to make suggestions of things that ought to be included.

I sent a copy of the article to Cole, not with the idea of its publication in the MVHR, but simply for his information. He did not attend the session at which I presented the paper, and he indicated some interest in having a look at it. The trouble about publishing it in any quarterly magazine is that it is pretty strictly contemporary in nature and will soon be out of date; and a quarterly might not bring it out until next fall or winter sometime.

I had counted on seeing you at Columbia. I hoped to tell you what I did after receiving your letter in which you told me about your general reaction to conditions in Pittsburgh. Among other things I got in touch with both Shippee and Ford and let them know how you felt. Ford, of course, of all men is probably the best posted on possibilities the country over, and I thought it would do no harm to let him know frankly what you were thinking. I wanted Shippee to know the situation because naturally if any kind of plan were worked out involving a return to Minnesota a position at the University would be essential. I told Shippee that I would be happy to try to work out some plan here at the Society if you ever wished to come back. The trouble would of course be financial, and nothing would be feasible unless a joint arrangement were made. I mean that salaries here at the Society are low, lower than they were a few years ago. My own salary as superintendent, for example, is some seven hundred dollars less a year than the superintendent's salary was when you were here. Lester said very little to me, but I got the impression that the situation at the University is not particularly promising. At any rate, I want you to know that I am thinking about you and that if ever I see any kind of possibility of doing a single thing that would be helpful to you I will use it. At Columbia I did a little scouting in connection with the coming archives position at Washington, which I want to see offered to you.

More another time.

Sincerely yours

Jed

8
MAY 14 1934

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

May 12, 1934

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4338 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

On re-reading your letter, I note that you speak of not knowing where the M.V.H.A. is to meet next year. The place is Cincinnati. I understand that Austin, Texas, is in line for the meeting the year after next.

Sincerely,

TCB

TCB/H

P

Dr. Theodore C. Elegen,

Minnesota Historical Society,

Saint Paul, Minnesota

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
4338 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pa. May 16, 1934

Dear Ted:

Bourne writes me that he has made other arrangements for his article on historical activities, so I have suggested to Cole that your paper be published in the NWHR as promptly as possible. He has a good many papers on hand, however, and he may feel that he cannot push this ahead of the others.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

4360 Center Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

June 30, 1934

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

Dear Ted:

I have just had word from Dr. Morse that he has taken a house in the lake district and is going to move out of my house in July. His lease runs until September first and he writes that he will take care of the lawn until that date. I assume, also, that he will continue to pay the rent unless the property is occupied. I am very anxious, of course, to get in a good responsible tenant as soon as possible and it occurred to me that you might perhaps hear of some one who would be interested. The house has been renting at \$50 a month and I am willing to rent it at that rate for another year to a responsible party, who will take good care of the property.

I have had, also, a letter from Mr. J. D. Engle, the real estate man, to the effect that he has a prospective purchaser for the property, who wants to pay cash, and asking for my bottom price. I have written him that I have been holding the property, consisting of the house and two lots, at \$7,000, which is \$2,000 less than I have invested in it, but that I would sell it for \$6,500 cash. As a matter of fact, I am not greatly interested in the cash proposition. I would just as soon sell on easy terms to a responsible person with payments made by the month amounting to only a little more than rent.

Don't bother to answer this but I would be glad if you would let it be known that the house is available for rent or sale and let me hear of any prospects that may come to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

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July 6, 1934

Dear Steve:

This is just a hurried note to tell you that I have been taking some steps in connection with the archives matter. I have written to Shippee, who is in Washington just now, and also to Dr. Jameson and Dean Ford. It may be necessary, though I know you won't like the idea very much, for me to go to Einar Hoidale, one of our congressmen who has a good deal of influence with the administration in the matter of appointments. I know him personally. Before doing this I am waiting to hear from Dean Ford, however, and I am also very curious to find out what comes of my letter to Dr. Jameson. I will keep you advised of developments. If it seems necessary, I have in mind asking a number of people to write letters. What I have done may not help you much, but I feel sure that it is doing no harm. I hope you will not disapprove.

I received your letter about the house. Miss Palmes and I have talked the matter over and we will make every effort to do something.

Hastily yours,



TCB/H

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4360 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

July 12, 1934

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4360 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Just a word to say that I have written to Hicks at Wisconsin about the archives matter and I am asking him to join in a little campaign. Today or tomorrow I hope to see Steefel, who wrote me that he had communicated with you.

Your program for the third annual historical tour just reached me. It looks very interesting. We are being swamped by our tour, which comes off on Saturday. It now appears that we will charter not less than three buses. We have on hand already about 175 reservations for the luncheon on the Sibley grounds, and Willoughby is tearing his hair.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen
Ted

TCB/H

P.S. And I am "sweating blood" as usual.

MEP

P.P.S. But we are all cheerful.
T.C.B.

Gladys Haines.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

July 18, 1934

Dear Steve:

Perhaps you have already heard from Steefel, but I think I had better let you know that we have struck a snag. I was just on the point of starting an intensive campaign and had planned to write letters to more than twenty persons, asking them to get their sentiments properly filed at Washington, when I learned that the executive committee of the American Historical Association is backing R. D. W. Connor of North Carolina for the position of archivist.

I had a letter from Dr. Jameson in which he spoke very highly of your qualifications for the position, but said that in view of the action of the committee he felt obliged to support the man it had endorsed. He did not give me the name of the man in question, but I learned from Dean Ford that it is Connor. I learn also that Connor, at first reluctant to allow himself to be pushed for the position, now has his hat in the ring.

I gather from what I have heard that if for any reason the candidacy of Connor should fall through a great many influential persons would unite in backing you.

In the circumstances I felt that I had better let you know what has happened. I have not heard from all the people I wrote to and there may be new developments. Among others I communicated with John D. Hicks, but have not yet had a reply.

After I heard from Dr. Jameson I wrote him a second letter in which I made the point that my motive in pushing you for the position at Washington was that of wanting your professional competence utilized in the administration of the archives. I told him that I thought it would be a mistake if you were not drawn in.

The news about Connor should be treated as confidential, unless of course it should have been made public before you get this letter. If there are new developments, I will keep you advised.

I had not heard about the excitement in your history department. I trust that you will publish the paper that Professor Turner read so that we may know what the trouble was.

We had a most successful short trip last week. Our starting line-up was the most impressive we have ever had, with three busses and twenty or twenty-five cars headed up by a police escort that took us through the stop-go crossings. At the Fort Snelling Chapel

we had an audience of some three hundred people and we were swamped at the luncheon, which was held at the Sibley grounds in Mendota. We went on to Shakopee for an afternoon session that went off nicely, then returned to Minneapolis for an evening meeting at Lake Harriet, which drew more than two thousand people. I gave a talk on the Pond brothers at this session and fortunately had a loud speaker to carry my voice to the crowd. The Fort Snelling band furnished music.

Please say hello to Elizabeth for me.

Sincerely yours,

Jed

TCB/H

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4063 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

September 5, 1934

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

Dear Ted:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Minnesota Alumni Weekly containing your "Minnesota Yesterday." I read it with great interest. I wish we could do something of the sort for western Pennsylvania.

If you hear of any new families coming to the University, I hope you will get word to them that my house is available for rent at a very low figure. If there is someone connected with the University who looks after such matters, I shall appreciate it very much if you will make sure that he or she knows about the house. I asked Dr. Morse to turn the keys over to Harold Deutsch when he left and I suppose that he did so. Mr. Engle, whose house Deutsch is occupying, wrote me about my place and said that he thought that he might rent or sell it. I wrote him that if he did so I would give him his commission, but I did not give him exclusive control of the property. Could you or Miss Palmes suggest any other real estate man who might be able to get a tenant for me? I am very anxious not to have the house stand vacant over the winter.

I have heard nothing as yet with reference to the appointment of an archivist. If any information reaches you, pass it on to me. I saw an item in the paper recently to the effect that plans are being made for enlarging the archives building even before it is completed. I believe that the ultimate solution of the archives problem will be the reproduction of the bulk of them in miniature on film, followed by the destruction of the originals.

I trust that you got in a good vacation this summer and are prepared for a hard winter with its legislative session. I have taken no vacation as yet but may possibly get away for a week just before the University opens.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:DS

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AND MUSEUM CURATOR

November 14, 1934

Dear Steve:

Please give me one or two or three suggestions of possible talks for the Historical Society session at the Cincinnati meeting of the M.V.H.A. I should like to have a session of sufficient general interest to attract a goodly audience and to make the affair more than a conference of Historical Society directors. Have you not someone at Pittsburgh who could contribute to the program? Among other things, I had thought we might have a general review somewhat similar to the one I presented last spring, but I have undertaken so much this year that I can not possibly take on such a paper for next spring.

Apart from routine publications, I am trying to get out three books within the next year, which I have edited or written in whole or in part, and I am beginning to realize that I have bitten off a pretty large chunk of work. I may add that these three books do not include the ^{part} bibliography that Ritchey and I are doing, though that publication also is claiming some of my time and energy. For your comfort, I will say that I have nearly completed the annotations that I promised Ritchey I would do.

I pine for a visit with you. There is not much special news here, but we are extremely busy with a hundred different things. I had a long letter from Grace Nute a few days ago. She is making some first-class discoveries. Among other things, she now has definite proof that Radisson wrote his famous narratives in French and that the Bodleian manuscripts are translations. She also has proof that Radisson was in Quebec in 1655, a little point that knocks the theories of our good friend, Mr. Adams, into a cocked hat.

I spent last evening with a Welshman who has come to Minnesota to study immigration with Stephenson and me. He is interesting himself particularly in Norwegian-American fiction. Now isn't it funny that the Norwegians of Minnesota should so largely ignore such a subject, leaving it, ^{mainly} ~~mainly~~ unexplored and to be exploited by a man from Wales here on a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship?

S.J.B.
14 November 1934

-2-

As a side-line and with the aid of Helen Katz, I have managed to get out a new volume of Studies and Records, a copy of which will be sent to you in a few days.

Clara is in St. Louis today, quite thrilled by the experience of being introduced to an audience down there by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Clara has been running the Citizens' Educational campaign in St. Paul as a preliminary to the Community Chest and she organized and conducted the campaign so effectively that it attracted a good deal of attention in other parts of the country.

Did I tell you that a very careful and critical examination of the earlier newspaper bibliography work forced us to do much of that work over again? We found that Mr. Lehmann's compilations were sadly inaccurate and bungled. I now have a little army of people working on the bibliography through FERA assistance. I have sometimes despaired of ever getting the thing done, but I keep pushing Mr. Larsen and in the end I hope that persistence will get the thing completed.

Another publication that has added some gray hairs to my crop is the manuscript guide, but that is now ready for press with an elaborate index ~~made~~ made. If you live long enough, you will see some of these projects finished.

My letter started out to be a brief note, but I see that it has become a long and rambling narrative and I will bring it to a close.

With love to Elizabeth and yourself, I am

Sincerely yours

SJB

CHESTNUT BOND

November 28, 1934

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

Dear Ted:

Your letter of November 14 was much appreciated. Elizabeth and I are always much interested in what is going on out at Minnesota and especially at the M.H.S. I judge that you are doing enough to keep yourself out of mischief.

I am afraid that the only suggestion that I have to offer with reference to the Historical Society's session at the M.V.H.A. meeting is that Dr. William D. Overman of the staff of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society be asked to tell about his experiences as a C.W.A. worker on the Pennsylvania Historical Survey and to discuss the subject of surveys generally. As you are probably well aware by this time, I very much doubt the value of general sessions devoted to the discussion of historical society work at the meetings of the M.V.H.A. It seems to me to be a duplication of the work of the Conference of Historical Societies affiliated with the A.H.A., and I must say that the sessions of that conference, most of which I have attended during the last twenty years, have not been particularly profitable. On the other hand I used to think that the little private conferences of directors of state historical work that were held during the meetings of the M.V.H.A. for a number of years were very valuable. Things would be brought up and discussed there that would never be mentioned in a general meeting.

Volume 8 of your Studies and Records has been received and examined with much interest. I cannot claim to have read it all but I read some of it, and I think it is a most attractive and impressive publication.

I was sorry, but not surprised, to learn that the earlier work of the newspaper bibliography was unreliable. I certainly hope that you succeed in getting it checked up and pushing the bibliography through to publication. Naturally I shall be very much interested in seeing it and also the inventory of manuscripts.

Elizabeth joins me in sending our best regards to the Blegen family.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

P

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

November 30, 1934

Dear Steve:

Miss Nute enclosed a letter for you with another that I received this morning and I am sending it on to you at once.

The proposal of a new publication society to handle H. B. Co. records seems to me to be worth most serious consideration.

Sincerely yours

T. C. B.

TCB/HB

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JAN 7 - 1935

January 4, 1935

Dear Steve:

Ellis has asked me to work up the program for the historical society session at the Cincinnati meeting. How would you like to do a survey of the historical society situation as it has developed, progressed, degenerated, or what have you, in 1934? Last year at Columbia I, as you know, worked up a little survey of recent developments, and I should like to have someone at Cincinnati carry on with a similar, though better, survey.

The session is to be a general session of the association and I have asked Binkley to talk on "New Tools and New Recruits for the Republic of Letters." That talk and the survey with a little discussion ought to give us a pretty good session. The only other thing I am thinking of is a very brief consideration of a possible summer seminar in historical society methods. We were going to have a little conference on that subject at Washington, but I gather that someone felt that the seminar should be made a seminar in archives and that nothing should be done until the archives building is completed. I don't agree. I think there is room for a summer seminar in manuscripts, state and local archives, editorial techniques, and historical society administration. Miss Nute and I, in fact, actually made tentative plans for such a course about a year ago, but dropped it when we failed to get the co-operation of the University of Minnesota Library School.

Sincerely yours

led

TCB/HB

Mr. S. J. Buck
Western Pennsylvania Historical Society
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*P.S. Perhaps the survey should cover
1934-35.*

January 9, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

It would be quite impossible for me to attempt to make a survey of recent historical activities for your conference. In the first place I haven't got the time; and secondly, I am not as much in touch with such activities here as I was in Minnesota. It occurs to me that Overman, the man at the Ohio State Society about whom I wrote you, might be able to make the survey. Other possibilities that occur to me are Coleman, Paul Angle, or one of Shambaugh's satellites.

I am glad to know that you have got Binkley on the program. I do not remember whether or not I suggested this to you, but if not, I intended to. He has some real ideas in his paper.

I quite agree with you that a summer seminar along the lines that you suggest would be worth while and that there is no reason for waiting until the archives building is completed. In fact, I believe that there should be a full year course in this field at one of the first-class institutions. You may recall that we talked about something of this sort at Minnesota many years ago.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

8

4 3

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MRS. CHARLES E. FURNESS, VICE PRESIDENT
EDWARD C. GALE, VICE PRESIDENT
EVERETT H. BAILEY, TREASURER

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

January 11, 1935

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

JAN 14 1935

Dear Steve:

I did not suppose that you would feel able to take on the historical society survey but I knew you would give me some suggestions of names for that job.

Binkley has definitely accepted my invitation to him to read a paper or give a talk at the Cincinnati meeting. I am trying to work up a little symposium or discussion following his paper and I think you had better let me include your name here. Of course I would see to it that you had a chance to read his paper a few weeks before the meeting.* I think I myself, will participate in the discussion, if I do not preside at the meeting.

You will be interested to know that I have launched my course in the general college. It is a new experience for me to be lecturing to a class of nearly a hundred students. I started off with about half that number but new recruits for my class republic have been pouring in steadily. The course is a teacher's dream, somebody comes in, takes the roll, makes out the class chart and handles the attendance throughout the entire course. Somebody else joins the class with the sole purpose of drawing up the examination questions and in due time she will administer the examination, mark the papers and make out the grades. All I have to do is to put on my song and dance. Now isn't that a sweet way to run a course? I also have a projection machine. Yesterday I wanted to show only one slide and so I instructed the office to send a mechanic in at 10.10 A.M. He arrived, the slide was displayed, the man left and my lecture went on. If this keeps up I expect that ultimately I will prepare my records on a phonograph and remain at home smoking in my study while they are being delivered. Or better still, be working at my desk in St. Paul at the same time I am lecturing at the University.

TCB/S

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen

On "New Tools, New Recruits for the Republic of Letters."

8

January 14, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

I am willing to be scheduled to discuss Binkley's paper. I already have a copy of the version of it (forty-two pages) that was distributed at the Washington meeting and have read it with much interest. Doubtless he will cut this down somewhat for presentation at the conference, but I should not think that it would be necessary to send me another copy.

I envy you your course in the General College. It is always more stimulating, I think, to lecture to a large than to a small class. You must have your materials so well organized by this time that it is very easy to prepare your lectures. I am still having to work up my material on the history of western Pennsylvania as I go along with my class, and I haven't been able to organize anything beyond 1815 as yet.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

P

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MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

JAN 18 1935

January 16, 1935

Dear Steve:

I am glad to know that you will let me schedule you for the discussion of Binkley's paper. As yet, I have not secured anybody to survey historical society progress. I hate to do that job myself, but I may have to before I am done with it.

So you think I have an easy time preparing my lectures! The truth is I am spending more time on these lectures than I have spent on any course that I have given since I joined the University faculty. Of course, I have the materials for such a course pretty well organized, but I am reworking the subject and changing my strategy radically. For once in my life, I have figured out the exact number of hours available for lectures and really planned a course so that I will come down to the present and cover the ground that I set out to cover. When I finish revising the course, I think it will be relatively easy for me to turn out a one-volume history of Minnesota, and this, in fact, is what I am planning to do, d. v.

Sincerely yours

See

TCB/HB

Dr. S. J. Buck
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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January 26, 1935

JAN 28 1935

Dr. Solon J. Buck
4338 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

At the recent Washington meeting Boyd was elected president of the Conference of Historical Societies. Is it your understanding that he would have authority over the historical society conference or session at the M. V. H. A. meeting?

Sincerely yours,

J.C.B.

TCB/S

My impression is that the M.V.H.A. meetings in the past have been arranged as "conferences of Directors of State and other Historical Agencies."

All this because Coleman wrote Ellis that Boyd would expect to arrange the M.V.H.A. session. Alas, in the meantime, your back former associate has arranged it!

8

January 28, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

The Conference of Historical Societies affiliated with the American Historical Association has never, so far as I know, had any jurisdiction over the conference held under the auspices of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. The latter conference, as you indicate, started as a "Conference of Directors of State Historical Agencies" and never had any formal organization, although at times business of the more formally organized Conference of State Historical Agencies in the upper Mississippi Valley, which handled the co-operative work in Washington, was considered at sessions of this conference under the auspices of the M.V.H.A. In fact, the latter was an outgrowth of the former.

I would suggest that your meeting be designated "Conference on Historical Society Work," in order to avoid giving the impression that it is a session of the Conference affiliated with the A.H.A., unless of course it seems desirable to make it a session of that Conference, which I doubt.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

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FEB 1 - 1935

January 30, 1935

Dear Steve:

I have written to Hicks and I hope that something may come of my suggestion to him that he sound out Cox. I also took the liberty of mentioning the matter to Lester, who said he would be glad to write to Cox also. I told him to wait until I had heard from John.

Sincerely yours

Jed

*Awfully sorry to hear about the
new development in your society and
about the possibility of the survey
being discontinued.*

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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February 1, 1935

Dear Steve:

It did not occur to me, when I wrote to John D. Hicks, that he himself might be in the field for the Northwestern position. To my astonishment he tells me that James has just asked him if he would care to be his successor. John says he has replied in terms that are virtually the equivalent of "No." Meanwhile, however, he is of course not quite in a position to recommend anyone else. He adds in his letter, "When the time comes you can trust me to put in some good ticks for Buck."

Sincerely,

Ted

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

FEB 4 - 1935

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

February 1, 1935

Dear Steve:

I have just heard from Coleman, who wants to take over the mangement of the conference at Cincinnati, but is quite willing to keep Binkley as the first and main number in the program. I have just written him that I am planning to designate the session as "Conference on Historical Society Work" and that I will be glad to have any suggestions that he and Boyd may want to make for the session. I hope you will not think I am being stubborn. I gather that the main purpose of all this pulling is to put Kellar in for a discussion of his project for a close and elaborate organization of historical societies. Please tell me whether or not you favor such an item in the program. Personally, though not enthusiastic about Kellar's proposal, I have no particular objection to a discussion of it.

Sincerely yours

Ted

TCB/B

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 4, 1935

Professor Theodore C. Blegen
History Department
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Ted:

I think you are quite right in your attitude with reference to the conference at the M.V.H.A. meeting. It never has been and, in my opinion, ought not to be a session of the organization of which Coleman is the secretary. My feeling with reference to Kellar's project is much the same as yours. It would certainly do no harm to let him present his ideas.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:RSC

February 9, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

I have just noticed an item in the January number of the Indiana History Bulletin, page sixty-four, which throws light on the attitude of Coleman with reference to the conference at the M.V.H.A. meeting. It seems that at the Conference of Historical Societies in Washington plans were made for a session of the conference to be held in connection with the M.V.H.A. meeting. It would, I suppose, be legitimate for the A.H.A. conference to call a meeting at the time and place of the M.V.H.A. meeting, but I do not see that it would have the right to absorb the conference usually held under the auspices of the M.V.H.A. without the approval of the latter organization.

I suspect that you will succeed in working out a compromise that will be satisfactory all around. It may be that it will be best in the future to have sessions in connection with both associations, but its ineffectiveness in the past makes me question its value for the future. As I have indicated on more than one occasion before, I believe that an informal conference of those who are actually directing the work of the really effective agencies is much more useful than a conference of delegates from all sorts and conditions of so-called historical societies.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

*of the
"Conference
of Historical
Societies"*

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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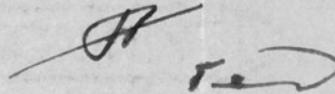
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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

February 14, 1935

Dear Steve:

No further news from John. I will let you know promptly if I hear anything from him. By the way, the letter I sent you in reference to the Northwestern matter was marked personal on the envelop. I suspect that your secretary probably had a bunch of letters and opened them quickly without noticing that mine carried the word "personal."

Sincerely yours



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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FEB 20 1935

February 18, 1935

Dear Steve:

I suspect that the enclosed communication is one that you may wish to answer, and so I am forwarding it to you. Of course, if you do not wish to undertake the revision in question, I have no objection to your suggesting me or someone else here at the Society.

Sincerely yours

J.C.B.

TCB/HB
Enc.

Dr. S. J. Buck, Director
Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 25, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

Please note the enclosed letter. I have written to Father Forwell that I am forwarding his letter to you. The sentence that he quotes was added when I revised my paper on Grand Portage for publication in pamphlet form, and that version has no footnotes, so I am not certain just what was the source of information. My recollection, however, is that it came from some transcript relating to Catholic missions in the Lake Superior region that Miss Nute had acquired. I hope that you can find it, and at any rate I trust that you will write to Father Forwell. From what Mrs. McLean has written us about him, I judge that he would be worth cultivating.

I have advised the Britannica Junior man to correspond with you about revising the article on Minnesota.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

8

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February 23, 1935

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

Dear Steve:

I think I have not acknowledged your letter of February 9. I am keeping the Cincinnati session as a special conference rather than as a meeting of the national organization, but I have asked Boyd to preside and Kellar to talk. Binkley will lead off with his paper and you will start the discussion.

Sincerely,

T.C.B.

T.C.B./S

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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March 1, 1935

Dear Steve:

John writes me that he has heard nothing further from James and he thinks that very likely James spoke out of turn -- that is, that Cox rather than James will have the final say.

In the light of this, don't you think it would be well for Lester or Ford or someone else to get in touch with Cox? Lester has already told me that he would be glad to write, but I have not seen Ford.

Sincerely yours

led

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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APR 15 1935

April 12, 1935

Dr. Solon J. Buck, Director
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
4338 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

Your comment on my report makes me very happy for I think there is no one whose good opinion I value ^{more} higher than yours. I am sending you a half dozen separates.

The guide is expected from the press today or tomorrow and you may be sure that a copy will be sent off to you as soon as the publication is available. If you want more than one copy, please let me know.

I enclose a card announcing a motion picture and lecture that we are to have here on Tuesday.

The program of your Joint Meeting to be held next week is one of the best regional programs that I have seen. I wish I could attend the sessions.

Will you give my compliments to Franklin for the report that he published in the last number of your magazine? I read it with great interest.

I have just sent to press "The Civil War Letters of Hans Christian Heg," a book that I have been fooling with off and on for the last five or six years. It has really involved a lot of work, but I have done it in driblets and I still have a feeling of surprise at having completed the thing. The manuscript for my volume of "Emigrant Songs and Ballads" is also completed, but unfortunately I do not have any funds to finance its publication at present.

We have been having the usual struggle with the legislature. Perhaps I am unduly optimistic. At any rate, I am hopeful that salaries will be a little improved for the coming two years. I think I had unusually effective hearings this year, and they have been supplemented by more than the usual amount of personal contact with committee members -- a job in which Mr. Cutler, Mr.

SJB
19 April 1935

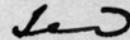
-2-

Oehler, Mr. Gale, and others have joined. You may be interested to know that for both hearings I managed to get various members of the Executive Committee to be present with me.

I will try to send you within the next day or two a brief statement about the work Ritchey and I are doing. I regret to say that it has not made much progress since the fall months, though we really made notable progress on it last summer and fall.

I am still working my head off on the General College course, but when I have finished it I will be in a pretty good position to write a one-volume history of Minnesota.

Sincerely yours



TCB/HB
Enc.

April 30, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

Heartiest congratulations on the guide. I have read the introduction and a considerable number of the entries and examined the index. I do not see how it could have been better. Certainly it is the most adequate thing of the sort that has ever been published in this country, and I trust it will set a model for similar publications by other institutions. It was fascinating to me, of course, because nearly every item I read brought a flood of recollections. I had difficulty in laying it down.

Unless you have already sent a copy to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, I wish you would send three more: one for the society and two for me to give to people here who need to be educated as to what an historical society can and should do.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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May 3, 1935

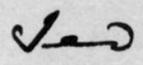
Dr. S. J. Buck
4360 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Steve:

I am sending you five copies of the manuscript guide, though you ask for only three. After reading your comment on the guide, I find myself in a generous mood.

Everybody is asking me about you and you must release me from my promise to keep the new development secret.

Sincerely yours



TCB/HB

May 28, 1935

Dr. Theodore C. Blagen
History Department
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Ted:

I have delayed writing to you in the hope that I could say something definite. The amount of red tape to be unwound seems interminable, however, and the appointment has not yet been confirmed. Both senators from Pennsylvania have endorsed the appointment and the recommendation was presumably transmitted to the President over a week ago. Whether or not he has acted and it is now in the hands of the Senate, I do not know. I do not really anticipate any difficulty, but the delay is somewhat embarrassing.

As the lease on our house here cannot be cancelled until September first, it is probable that the family will remain here until that date. That will have the advantage of giving me plenty of time to discover, if possible, a place in the vicinity of Washington where we can afford to live.

Will you please ask Miss Wheelhouse whether or not she received the savings account book for the Alford Commission that I sent to her several weeks ago. If she did, I wish she would attend to it at her earliest convenience, as Mrs. Paine is pressing me for my report.

We are finally enjoying some summer weather. For the last month the temperature here has been about the same as that of Minneapolis, according to the weather reports, and we have had to have grate fires in the mornings until a couple of days ago.

Sincerely yours

Solon J. Buck

DSC

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

JUL 15 1935

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, ARCHEOLOGIST
AND MUSEUM CURATOR

July 12, 1935

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

Dear Steve:

I was glad to learn that the nomination has been sent to the Senate, and I have no doubt that it will be confirmed. A good many of your friends here will be interested in hearing the news.

I hear very little from Ritchey, but I will get in touch with him and do what I can to step up the work on our volume. It is about time for me to take a little vacation, however, and I am afraid that this summer I cannot allow even the Fisk expeditions to stand in the way of the Blegen expedition.

Please give my compliments to Elizabeth on the nice, juicy article that she wrote in the last number of your magazine. Tell her that the pages of Minnesota History are open to her for a similar article about this region.

My regards to Augie. I hope that he is not introducing any of the bad Minnesota poker habits into your Pittsburgh circles.

Gates resigned a week or two ago accepting a National Parks job at a very much better salary than we could pay him. I hope to bring him back to Minnesota ultimately, however.

Tomorrow I am driving far to the northwest to give a talk on Red River Valley history at a picnic meeting. I am told that there will be an audience of six or seven thousand people, and that the local organization will provide a loud-speaker to carry my inspiring message to the audience.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen
P.

*For incl. see
Shipstead*

TCB/EF

8

August 8, 1935

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

Dear Ted:

Herewith I am sending you a couple of documents found among my papers that probably belong in the Folwell Papers.

Elizabeth and I spent a couple of days in Washington last week and rented a house situated near Rock Creek Park in what is known as Chevy Chase and about five miles from the White House. The house is not as good as the one we have here but the location is much better. I attended an all-day meeting of the Archives staff, and I am sure that I am going to enjoy the work there very much.

I have a file of the Wisconsin Alumni Magazine from October, 1932, to date, with only one number missing. If you want it for the M. H. S. library, I shall be glad to ship it express collect. Otherwise I shall destroy it. I have a vague recollection that you arranged to get these directly from the alumni association after my departure, but I may be mistaken.

Elizabeth and I hope to get away the first of next week for a vacation of ten or twelve days. We shall probably go somewhere in the Pennsylvania mountains. Stephen will go with us, but the two older children will remain here with the maid.

After September first our address will be 6316 Twenty-eighth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

I trust that you are having an agreeable vacation. Krey left us Tuesday night, headed for Minnesota via Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHEOLOGIST

Inverleith Lodge
Oak Rapids, Minn.
Aug. 12, 1935

Dear Steve :-

Thank you for sending me the Fortwell documents. I am having them filed with the Fortwell Papers. I am writing to Miss Perabek and you will hear from her in a day or two about the Wisconsin Alumni Magazine. I do not remember whether or not we got a file from the alumni association.

I am glad to know that you have found a house in Washington. Sometime before too long I hope to have the pleasure of calling on you there.

We are having a very pleasant vacation, but just now it is a little too cold up here. A stiff, cold west wind is sweeping across the lake and we are using our fireplace. Still, Clara & I went out for an early morning swim today — mainly so that we could feel heroic. I am glad you and Elizabeth are getting a little vacation. Tell E. not to let my ms. interfere with her vacation.

Sincerely,
Ted

several hours visiting the building. They are fine people.

P

the present. Mr. L. became a life member of the society. He & his wife spent
P.S. Clara and I had the great thrill of dining with Edward
and Mrs. Lumbush a week or two ago. We are getting
The Lumbush Papers (Senior). The whole thing is being kept quiet for