



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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129 Linden Ave.,
Asheville, N.C.,
December 3, 1934.

Dr. Solon T. Buck,
4360 Center Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Our mutual acquaintance, Dr. Archibald Henderson, of the University of North Carolina, is planning to publish many of the results of his historical researches, carried on over a period of upwards of thirty years. At the present time he is publishing a syndicated series of 52 essays dealing with North Carolina history in all the leading North Carolina dailies (Sunday issues). He is preparing for publication, in the near future, a two-volume work, The Old North State: Some Chronicles of Carolina; a two-volume work, fast nearing completion, entitled Transylvania: The Fight for a Fourteenth American Colony, dealing with the opening of the West in the eighteenth century; and a volume of Transylvania Company documents, for the Clarence Walworth Alvord Memorial Commission, of which he is a member.

You are, of course, familiar with Dr. Henderson's principal published historical works: Washington's Southern Tour, The Conquest of the Old Southwest, The Star of Empire; and his innumerable contributions to many of the leading American historical magazines, local, state and national, and to many newspapers and popular magazines.

I am planning to write, and publish early in 1935, an appreciation of Dr. Henderson in the role of historical scholar. In order to give the essay authenticity, I am asking for a brief estimate of Dr. Henderson as an historical scholar and writer from a number of professional historians. Will you not favor me, at an early date, with 150 to 200 words, with liberty to quote, on the topic mentioned? Your co-operation will be a great kindness to me and a genuine service to Dr. Henderson.

Thanking you heartily, I am

Faithfully yours,

George W. McCoy
George W. McCoy.

Not answered.

d. j. B.

JAN 8 1934

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
Sixty Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK

January 6, 1934

JOSEPH C. PALAMOUNTAIN
College Department

Professor Solon Buck,
Department of History,
The University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

My dear Dr. Buck,

I wonder if it would be convenient for you to grant me an interview some time either Saturday or Sunday the 20th or 21st of this month, relative to your projected manuscript. I shall be in Pittsburgh from about one P.M. Saturday until six P.M. Sunday. Later, in February, March, and April I shall be in Pittsburgh for more extended periods, but I am particularly anxious to see you as soon as possible.

I shall be most obliged to you if you will kindly let me know whether I may see you on my coming trip, and if so, when and where.

Mr. Ambler sends his regards.

Very truly yours,
Joseph C. Palamountain

8

January 18, 1934

Mr. Joseph C. Palamountain,
College Department,
The Macmillan Company,
60 Fifth Ave., New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Palamountain:

I am sorry to have been so dilatory in replying to your note of January 6th. I have been extremely busy the last few weeks and have had to neglect my correspondence with the result that your letter got buried in a pile of papers awaiting consideration.

I have no idea what "projected manuscript" of mine you have reference to but I expect to be in Pittsburgh the coming week-end and I shall be glad to talk with you. I have engagements on Saturday afternoon and evening but I expect to be at home all day Sunday and you can reach me there by calling "Schenley 5071". My home address is 4360 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

②

Rec'd.
Dec. 1, 1934

THE Macmillan Company
takes pleasure in sending its check in
payment of royalties due on Sales to
April 30th, 1934.

P

Dunn Loring, Virginia,
April 26, 1934.

Dr. S. J. Buck,
Director, Western Pennsylvania Historical Society,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Buck:

Possibly you have more than enough to do without bothering about National Archives legislation. However, you may like to know that Representative Sol Bloom's Bill, which has already passed the House, seems cut out on the pattern of his George Washington Bicentennial Commission, at least to the extent that he wants a Commission of about twenty to run the National Archives establishment, instead of a single head like the Librarian of Congress. I am sending out a memorandum (copy herewith enclosed), hoping that those interested will write something to their United States Senators, with a view to causing some intelligent (informed) debate in that body, when National Archives bills come before it.

Very truly yours,

Thomas K. Martin.

May 16, 1934

Dr. Thomas P. Martin,
Dunn Loring, —
Virginia

Dear Dr. Martin:

Your letter of April 26 was duly received but I have taken no action in the matter because I did not feel that I knew enough about the situation to act intelligently. I gather that there is considerable difference of opinion as to what would be the best type of archives organization. Word has just reached me that the executive committee of the American Historical Association is to consider the matter at a meeting next Sunday. It seems to me that in a matter of this sort the historical workers of the country should pull together through their association. If the executive committee of the association can reach a decision as to what is the best type of archives organization, I shall be glad to take up the matter with the senators from Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

MAY 21 1934

Dunn Loring, Virginia,
May 19, 1934.

Dear Mr. Buck:

I have kept in pretty close touch with Dr. Jameson, who is on the "inside" of the National Archives business, and of American Historical Association business, too, unless things have radically changed since last December; and I was not aware that I was working at cross purposes to anybody in the Association. The Conference of Archivists at Urbana made a recommendation to the Council; but I believe the Council took no action, at least no positive action; and Bloom introduced his bill on January 3, only a few days later. It passed the House, April 16, with very little debate. I had hoped it might be debated a little more, and improved, if and when it was reported to the Senate.

Of course, if the American Historical Association through its Executive Committee decides to take some action, we should all pull together. Will you be so good as to let me know what the Committee decides to do?

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Martin

Dr. S. J. Buck,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

2

May 25, 1934

Dr. Thomas P. Martin,
Dana Loring,
Virginia

Dear Dr. Martin:

I have no information as to what action the executive committee of the American Historical Association may have taken with reference to the archives problem at its meeting last Sunday. I should suppose that Dr. Jameson would be informed but, if not, you could probably find out by getting in touch with Conyers Reed. If Dr. Jameson thinks that I can be of any assistance in bringing about desirable legislation and will indicate to me what steps I should take to that end, I shall be very glad to do anything in my power. I have a slight acquaintance with Senator Reed.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

P
M.H.S.

July 6, 1934

Miss Mary E. Palmes,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Miss Palmes:

Thank you for sending the bound copy of Volume 14 of Minnesota History. Herewith I am sending you 50¢ in postage to pay for the binding and, under separate cover, I am returning numbers 2, 3, and 4 of the volume. My copy of No. 1 seems to have been mislaid but doubtless it will turn up. I am also sending some extra copies of numbers 2, 3, and 4 of Volume 12, which turned up while I was searching for the other one.

I showed your recent letter to Elizabeth and we were both very glad to hear from you. She will doubtless get around to write some time but she is very busy just now helping me on a book that I am trying to write. We think longingly of northern Minnesota these hot days but I gather that you in the Twin Cities have been having even hotter weather than we have had here.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Back

SJB:AM

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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

THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

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

March 19, 1935

Mr. Solon J. Buck
4360 Center Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Buck:-

We have just received the bound volumes of Minnesota History, and I am sending you a copy today.

Today is a marvelous day -- bright and sunny -- but the paper says it is to be cloudy with rain or snow by tonight and again tomorrow. Wish it would all come at once and get through with it.

We got some more SERA workers this morning so that now our regular staff numbers only one or two more than the SERA people, but we are getting lots of good work done, and I am getting plenty of experience in making out payrolls.

Everyone is all right around our staff, but we are all as busy as ever. No time to fool around much. I had a nice letter from Miss Nute the other day. She is finding an enormous amount of material in England, and from her last letter she wont be going to France before the last of May or early in June.

I don't seem to know much news about people around here or at least I can't think of it, so will stop.

Best wishes to all

Mary E. Palmer

March 22, 1935

Miss Mary E. Palmes
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Miss Palmes:

Thank you very much for sending the bound copy of Minnesota History to me. I received it yesterday. I am returning the four unbound numbers and am sending you fifty cents in stamps herewith to cover the cost of binding.

We are struggling along about as usual. Elizabeth read a paper at the last meeting of our Society and was asked to read it again before the Colonial Dames. We are having a meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association here in April but I have managed to get out of most of the work connected with it.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Back

SJB:DSC

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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

THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

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

April 24, 1935

APR 26 1935

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

Dear Steve:

I am sending you, with the compliments of the Minnesota Historical Society, a copy of a recently published guide to the personal papers in the Society's manuscript collections.

It is our hope that this volume will prove of value as a practical guide to the materials and research possibilities of our own collections. We are interested also in making a little contribution toward some kind of national inventory of unpublished materials for research, and it is our hope that many other institutions will ultimately produce similar reports on their manuscripts.

We believe that you will be interested in examining this volume both as a report on the contents of our collections and as a type of guide that seems to be needed by American historical scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. B.

TCB/S

N.B. This is a form letter I am using. I send it along to you so that you can see what I am doing.

June 19, 1935

Miss Mary E. Palmes
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Miss Palmes:

About six weeks ago I sent to Miss Wheelhouse the bank book for the savings account of the Alvord Memorial Commission in the First National Bank of Saint Paul and asked her to have it brought up to date and then to return it to me. Hearing nothing from her and having occasion to write to Mr. Blegen on another matter about two or three weeks ago, I asked him to ask her to attend to it at her early convenience. Not a word have I heard from either of them about it however. Fortunately, there is one person there who I know will at least answer a letter; so I am writing to you to ask you to look into the matter and let me know what's what and why and when.

I am sending you herewith some correspondence belonging to the M.H.S. that I found among the papers of the travel bibliography. You will be interested to know that I have finally been relieved of the responsibility for the travel bibliography. The work was not finished, not even for the period 1750 to 1830, to which we had restricted it in the hopes of getting something completed. But all the material has been shipped to the executive secretary of the American Historical Association, and I understand that a committee is going to examine it and make recommendations as to what to do about it.

The Bucks are all well and busy, as usual. Roger has a paper route for the summer. Elizabeth is helping me on the book that I am trying to write. We hope to get out to Minnesota sometime -- perhaps in the fall -- but are not making any plans. I am thinking some of having my house in Minneapolis made over into a duplex, but I hesitate to do it without being there to supervise the plans and work. It has stood empty now for more than a year.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

P.S. If you have any extra copies on hand of the Third Report of the Minnesota War Records Commission containing the inventory of the collection, I wish that you would send one of them to Dr. Roscoe B. Hill, The National Archives, Washington, D.C. Mr. Hill was here the other day collecting information and material relating to manuscripts and archives. I gave him a copy of the Guide to the Personal Papers of the M. H. S., of which I have several extra copies. If you have an ample supply of the War Records Report, I should like to receive a copy myself, addressed to my house, 4360 Center Avenue.

S. J. B.

8
AUG 15 1935

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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

THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

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

August 13, 1935

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

Dear Mr. Buck:

Mr. Blegen informs me that you are offering us your file of the Wisconsin Alumni Magazine beginning with October, 1932. We shall be very glad to get it, as we have had no issues since that date. Please send them express collect.

Sincerely yours,

Esther Jerabek

EJ/H

HEAD OF ACCESSIONS DEPARTMENT

Miss Esther Jerabek
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.

Historical Bldg., 4336 Bigelow Blvd.,
Pittsburgh, Pa. August 16, 1935

Dear Miss Jerabek:

Your letter of August 13 to Dr. Fack, concerning the file of the Wisconsin Alumni Magazine, has been received and will be called to his attention upon his return from vacation on August 26.

Sincerely,

Office Secretary

Mr. Floyd C. Shoemaker
Secretary, State Historical Society of Missouri
Columbia, Mo.

4360 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
October 24, 1934

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

Noting your request for back numbers of the Missouri Historical Review in the October issue, I checked over my broken sets and found three of the numbers for which you offer fifty cents. These are being mailed to you today.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Back

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

COLUMBIA

October the Twenty-Ninth
1934

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

Dear Mr. Buck:

Your card of October 24th together
with the following issues of the "Missouri Historical
Review" has just been received:

Volume 14, No.1	.50
Volume 22, No.2	.50
Volume 23, No.3	.50
Total	<u>\$1.50</u>

Check in the amount of \$1.50 will be
sent you about December 1st.

Rec'd.

Sincerely,

Floyd C. Shreveaker
Secretary.

FCS:IB

P

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
COLUMBIA

December the Eighth
1934

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
4360 Center Avenue,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Buck:

Kindly find inclosed check in the
amount of \$1.50 in payment of three numbers of
the "Missouri Historical Review".

Sincerely,

Floyd C. Shoemaker
Secretary.

FCS:IB

MAY 17 1934

MT. RUSHMORE TEXT COMPETITION



SPONSORED BY
THE HEARST NEWSPAPERS

KENNETH M. ELLIS, Director



May 12, 1934

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior
Sen. K. Pittman, Nev.
Sen. H. Johnson, Cal.
Sen. B. Cutting, N. Mex.
Sen. M. Sheppard, Tex.
Sen. T. Connally, Tex.
Sen. C. L. McNary, Ore.
Sen. P. Norbeck, S. Dak.
Sen. W. J. Bulow, S. Dak.
Rep. Isabella Greenway, Ariz.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Mrs. Mary Rumsey, N.R.A.C.C.
Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor
Pres. J. A. C. Chandler,
College of William & Mary
Pres. R. G. Sproul,
University of California
Fred. W. Sargent,
Ch. Mt. Rushmore National
Memorial Commission

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Buck:

The Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Commission, will present in 1935 at Rapid City South Dakota, within sight of the colossal granit cenataph carved by Gutzon Borglum -

THE PAGEANT OF AMERICA!

This pageant, will comprise a colorful spectacular scene from the history of each state and territory of the United States.

The Pageant Committee wishes to have the people of each state vote on which scene from their history they desire to have presented in the Pageant of America

To simplify the problem, the Committee is asking ten historians in each state to submit a list of ten major events which embody the following requirements.

1. The event must have occurred within the present geographical boundaries of the state.
2. It must be of such character that it may be re-enacted in pure picture form.

When the Committee has received the ten suggestions from the ten historians in each state, of which number you have been selected as one, it will select ten incidents from the one hundred and submit them to popular choice.

The purpose of the pageant is to stimulate interest in the United States as a nation, and in the memorial on Mt. Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

May we urge that you give us the courtesy of a reply not later than July 15, 1934.

With sincere thanks for your co-operation

Very truly yours

Kenneth M. Ellis
Kenneth M. Ellis,

MT. RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Fred. W. Sargent, Ch.
J. A. Boland, Ex. Sec.
Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor
D. B. Gurney
Hon. R. S. Johnson
Hon. W. Williamson
Hon. L. B. Hanna
Mrs. S. Strawn
Mrs. L. J. Spoons

NEW YORK COMMITTEE

Edwin Markham, Poet
E. A. Colligan,
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Miss L. S. Nelson,
Hon. Regent D. A. R., Jersey City
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J. A. Nugent,
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Arthur S. Kimball,
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School Competition Director
Prof. David Mussey,
Chairman Amer. Hist. Columbia
Prof. Cornelius Justin,
Manhattan College
Prof. Nelson P. Mead,
City College
Prof. John Musser,
New York University
Prof. Samuel Kelfair,
Fordham University
Mrs. Russell E. Tucker,
Daughters of the Cincinnati

Not used.

March 18, 1935

Mr. Verne E. Chatelain
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

Dr. Hope Kane, my former assistant on the Travel Bibliography, writes me that she is an applicant for a position in your department and asked me to write to you about her qualifications. From what she writes about the work that you would want her to do, I am inclined to think that you would find her satisfactory. She is very intelligent and has lots of enthusiasm and persistence, and her acquaintance with source material gained through her work on the Travel Bibliography and other bibliographical work would be valuable equipment. I feel obliged to say, however, that in some respects I was disappointed with her work on the Travel Bibliography, though I think that I expected too much of her and that the fault was mine rather than hers. I was so busy with other matters that I had to leave her largely to herself, and the work did not make the progress that I had anticipated or that she estimated from time to time. I think the difficulty was that her judgment was not always good as to what details were important and what ones were not, or perhaps I had better say she was not good in guessing what my judgment would be on such matters. If she is to work on moderately sized problems or under the supervision of someone else, I believe that her work will be satisfactory. On the other hand I'm not so sure of her competence to take a big job and handle it independently.

You will understand, of course, that this letter is confidential. In case you do employ her, I should be much interested to know how it works out.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJR:DSC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
—
WASHINGTON

MAR 21 1935

March 19, 1935.

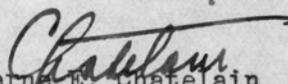
Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Director,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I have received your letter of March 18 in regard to the qualifications of Miss Hope Kane for a position in the Historical Division of this Service.

Miss Kane's application is receiving consideration and your frank statements concerning her work with you are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Verne E. Chatelain
Chief
Historical Division
Branch of Research and Education

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7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION

Washington, D. C.
April 15, 1935

APR 18 1935

Dr. Solon G. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Buck.

Mr. Alston G. Field who has, I think, been working on the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, applied sometime ago to the National Park Service for employment as an historian. There is now prospect of one or two positions for historians in connection with the state and regional offices of the State Park Division of this Service. While appointments will be made through the regional officers each of whom has charge of Emergency Conservation Work in the state parks of several states, this office is interested in recommending persons for their consideration.

Any information you could supply regarding Mr. Field's qualifications and experience would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L. Wirth
Assistant Director

By

Ronald F. Lee
Ronald F. Lee
Historian

cc:Lee

April 22, 1935

Mr. Ronald E. Lee, Historian
National Park Service
State Park Division
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Mr. Alston G. Field, about whom you inquire in your letter of April 15 is now an assistant in the department of history at Northwestern University, and I do not know whether or not he would be available. I expect to see him, however, at the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting in Cincinnati the latter part of this week and I will speak to him about it. I believe that his agreeable personality and his experience in field work and other historical activities with us would make him an excellent choice for one of your positions. You can, of course, get in touch with him by writing to him at Northwestern.

I know of several other people who would probably be interested in one of your positions and will be glad to write to you about them if you care to have me do so. If you could let me know approximately what salaries would be paid, I could make more intelligent recommendations. Would a woman be considered for any of the positions?

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

P

3

MAY 1 - 1935

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1935

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Buck:

Thank you for your letter of April 22
concerning Mr. Field.

I notice you mention that you know
several other persons who probably would be interested
in the work we are undertaking. We would be very glad
to have any recommendations which you might care to make
regarding such persons.

The number of positions available is limited,
of course, but if anything should open up, as it may, we
would like to be able quickly to get in touch with young
historians suitable for our work.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L. Wirth
Assistant Director

By *Ronald F. Lee*
Ronald F. Lee
Historian
State Park Division

Dale b. Mansford 1621 Cumberland St. Pitt

May 3, 1935

Mr. Ronald F. Lee, Historian
State Park Division
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:

In response to your letter of April 29 I will send you the names of a number of people who I think might be interested in one of your positions. If you want further information about any of them, I shall be glad to supply it to the best of my ability.

In view of the uncertainty as to the future here, several of the members of my staff might be available. Among them are Franklin F. Holbrook, who has had a great deal of experience in historical society work and would be a very valuable man for one of your positions; Miss Marian Silveus, a Ph.D. from Wisconsin, who has been doing valuable work for us on a part-time or temporary basis during the last two or three years; John W. Harpster, a fellow on my staff, who has valuable experience in field work and in photographing manuscript material and who has taken some graduate work in history beyond his master's degree; and Dr. Leland D. Baldwin, our librarian and research associate, who would be interested only if the position had some degree of permanence.

Two of the men who have had charge of the government-supported survey of historical materials in Allegheny County would probably be available: Dale C. Morford of 1621 Cumberland Street, Pittsburgh, who organized the project, is now assistant director of some project for the education of the unemployed; and Mr. Louis W. H. Johnston is still running the survey. Morford has nearly completed his work for the Ph. D. in history at Michigan, and Johnston is working toward a Ph. D. in political science. I can recommend Johnston very highly.

Most of these people are applicants for positions in the National Archives, but I doubt if any of them are likely to receive appointments there in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

P

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

MAY 31 1935

May 29, 1935.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
Director, The Western Pa. Historical Survey,
University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

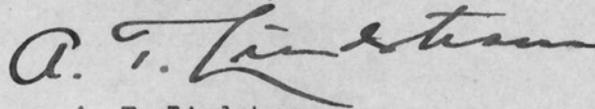
Dear Mr. Buck:

The Service has received your letter of May 3 in response to Mr. Lee's letter of April 29 regarding a list of people who might be interested in a position as historian in connection with the Emergency Conservation Work program.

Recent orders from the Secretary of the Interior prescribe that all new or vacant positions in this work be filled from a list of eligibles maintained in his Office. We are, therefore, unable to make direct selection of personnel in this work.

If any of the people suggested by you are especially interested in obtaining employment in this program, it is suggested that they contact the Secretary of the Interior directly regarding their application.

Sincerely yours,



A. T. Lindstrom
Acting Assistant Director

8

Dr. Curtis Nettles,
Department of History,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Nettles:

I am moved to express to you my appreciation of your article entitled "Frederick Jackson Turner and The New Deal" in the March number of Wisconsin Magazine of History. It is timely and well written and the point is well taken.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
BASCOM HALL

April 10, 1934.

Nittles

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

Dear Mr. Buck.

Please let me thank you for your note of April 5th respecting my little article in the Wisconsin Magazine of History. I appreciate your kindness particularly, in view of the fact that I understand that you were closely associated with Mr. Turner. I did not know him intimately but I believe I have been more influenced by his writings and his personality than by those of any other scholar.

Is Randolph Downes with you at the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society? If so, I wish you would tell him how much I enjoyed a book review he has in the current number of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. It is an excellent review - and having had occasion to examine the book - on Federal Indian Relations 1770-83 - I know that his judgments are correct.

I also enjoyed reading an article which you published by Maria Licens on Western Pennsylvania in the Election of 1876; if you should see her please convey my congratulations to her.

You must have a fascinating field for historical research. I think over the historical importance of Western Pennsylvania from the early eighteenth century down to the time of Messrs. Frick, Carnegie, Rockefeller, Mellon et al it is obvious that yours is one of the most vital regions in American history — certainly one of the central points in the main stream of American life.

With all good wishes

Sincerely yours

Charles Wells

8

January 9, 1935

Professor Curtis P. Nettels
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Nettels:

It was very kind of you to send me a copy of your study entitled "The Money Supply of the American Colonies before 1720." I agree with you that it is a subject of fundamental importance for any statistical study of the economic history of the period. I wish that a similar study were available for the later colonial and early federal period. In my work on the social and economic history of western Pennsylvania prior to the War of 1812 I have frequently felt the need of such a study.

The format of your book is an improvement over the old University of Wisconsin studies, but as an alumnus of the University I wish that it would establish a University press and bring out its publications in a modern professional format, comparable to those of the University of Minnesota press.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

JAN 22 1934

NEW YORK HISTORY

1

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Alexander C. Flick, Editor
Peter Nelson, Assistant Editor
Dixon Ryan Fox
Frederick B. Richards
Julian P. Boyd
Frederick Coykendall



EDITORIAL OFFICE
State Education Building
Albany, New York

January 20, 1934

Dr Solon J. Buck
The Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
Historical Building
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Doctor Buck:

I was **sorry not** to be at the meeting of the AHA, where I presume a good time **was** had. Some time ago Boyd and I discussed the printing of our journal and he has just sent me your letters of October 27 and November 6 in further explanation of some statements.

Of course we all agree that the format of NEW YORK HISTORY might be improved and are anxious to do what we can. I wonder if you would be willing to indicate just what changes you made in your magazine. The exchange copies go up to Ticonderoga after notice here and I have none at hand.

You note that your magazine costs approximately \$5 per page for an edition of 1500. Including wrapping and mailing but not including postage, our October number, 192 pages, 2300 copies, cost us \$4.41 per page -- this includes the printing of the cuts but not the engraving charges. Exclusive of cuts the cost was \$4.21 per page for the 2300 copies. Of these about 2000 were covered and 300 held for the annual bound volume of PROCEEDINGS.

You state that you "suspect that most of the copies of the magazine and many of the bound volumes of the PROCEEDINGS ultimately reach the paper mill." Most members perhaps do finally throw away their copies of the magazine but this can hardly be your meaning. Perhaps you think that we print too many copies and, after keeping them in stock a few years with gain to nobody, send them to the paper mill; I know this situation is too often true. For answer, let me quote these figures:

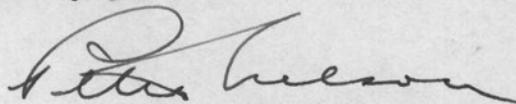
Printed for October 1933	2300
Mailing list including exchanges	1942
For copies to authors of papers, reviews, &c	58
Bound volumes, sales to members, about	200
Bound volumes, for stock, &c, about	<u>100</u>

Dr Solon J. Buck --2

If we could have met at Urbana, these matters could have been discussed most profitably but perhaps we shall meet sometime this coming summer or fall at the meeting of this Association.

The fourth volume of the Susquehanna Company Papers has not yet come from the press but Mr Boyd expects its publication this month. We will see that you get it - but do get the review of the four volumes to me by the first of March, so that it may appear in the April number.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Nelson".

Peter Nelson

PN:HLS



NEW YORK HISTORY
 Quarterly Journal of the
 NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Alexander C. Flick, Editor Dixon Ryan Fox Julian P. Boyd
 Peter Nelson, Assistant Editor Frederick B. Richards Frederick Coykendall

EDITORIAL OFFICE STATE EDUCATION BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 30, 1934

Dr Solon J. Buck
 Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
 Historical Bldg
 Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Doctor Buck:

I am advised by Mr Boyd that Volume 4 of the Susquehanna Company's Papers was sent to you about a month ago. Most of the copy for the April number has gone to the printer but I have not yet had proof of any part, and I wish very much that I might have your review, which could be slipped in when I get galley, or even as late as page proof.

Sincerely yours

Peter Nelson
 Peter Nelson

PNF:LS

P
N. J. H. H. H.

4360 Center Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 4, 1934

Dr. Peter Nelson,
State Education Building,
Albany, New York.

My dear Dr. Nelson:

It is a matter of very sincere regret to me that it has been impossible for me to supply you before this with the review of the Susquehanna Company Papers. In view of the situation in which I have become involved, I can find excuses to myself (I will not trouble you with them) for not having written the review but I cannot find any good excuse for having agreed to write it. The best I can do now is to say that I will make every possible effort to write it over the coming week-end. I assure you that your patience in this matter has been deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 9, 1934

Dr. Peter Nelson,
Assistant Editor, New York History,
State Education Building,
Albany, New York.

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Here, at last, is the review of the Susquehanna Papers. I hope that it reaches you in time for the April issue.

I find that I never replied to your letter of January 20th in which you commented on my previous letter discussing the formats of our respective magazines. I am afraid that it would be impossible for me to indicate just what changes we made in the format of our magazine, as practically everything was changed except the size. In order that you may have a copy available for examination, I am sending you, under separate cover, a complimentary copy of the August, 1933, issue. You certainly get a very good price for printing as compared with ours. Part of the difference, however, is to be explained by the fact that we use smaller type and so get a good many more words on a page.

My remark that most copies ultimately reached the paper mill did have reference to their final disposition by the members who received them rather than to any action on the part of the administration. When I wrote my letter of October 27th to Boyd, I was under the impression that your society made a practice of sending out bound volumes of the Proceedings to all members in addition to the quarterly issues of the magazine. I perceive from your letter that I was mistaken in this.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM



NEW YORK HISTORY
Quarterly Journal of the
NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Alexander C. Flick, Editor Dixon Ryan Fox Julian P. Boyd
Peter Nelson, Assistant Editor Frederick B. Richards Frederick Coykendall

EDITORIAL OFFICE STATE EDUCATION BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 13, 1934

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

My dear Doctor Buck:

Many thanks for the review of the Susquehanna Papers which you will be glad to know will be in time for the April issue, as I can insert it in the galley proofs which are now coming in.

I shall be glad to go over from the standpoint of printing the copy of your magazine which you sent me and which I have received and shall hope that sometime in the future we may meet and discuss some problems of that sort. I was sorry not to be able to be present at the conference which was held in connection with the Historical Association meeting last December.

Sincerely yours

PN:HLS

Peter Nelson

Peter Nelson

June 4, 1934

Mr. Peter Nelson,
New York State Historical Association,
Albany, New York.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I was glad to learn from the library's copy of New York History for April that my review of the Susquehanna Company Papers reached you in time for inclusion in that issue. I would appreciate it very much if you will send me a personal copy of this number or, at least, a clipping of the review, as I like to preserve copies of such items in my files.

I observe from the other reviews in this number that volume 8 of the Papers of Sir William Johnson has been published. I have been very kindly favored with a complete file of the preceding volumes of this series and I hope that I may receive a copy of this volume also. Would there be any possibility of our procuring a set of this work for the library of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania?

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

JAN 10 1934

8

The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

DS

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
5TH AVENUE & 42ND STREET

3

New York, January 9, 1934.

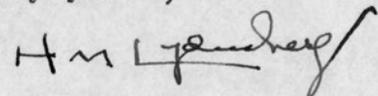
Dr. Solon J. Buck, Director
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
4338 Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Buck:

Have you any suggestions as to the most fitting place of deposit for a revolver owned and used by Wild Bill Hickok, a western bad man of the sixties to eighties? Mr. Frank J. Wilstach, who wrote one of Hickok's biographies, died recently, and his widow asks my advice as to disposal of this firearm. It does not fall within the scope of an art museum, because they usually stop before 1800. It is not fitting for us to keep it as we are a library and not a museum. It does not seem to fall within the scope of any of the eastern historical museums. If you know any of the western museums that are alive enough to appreciate it and give it fitting care, I should be grateful for your recommendation. I do not know whether there is any fitting repository in Kansas, for instance.

With best wishes,

Truly yours,



H. M. Lydenberg,
Assistant Director.

January 12, 1934

Mr. H. M. Lydenberg,
The New York Public Library,
5th Ave. and 42nd St.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lydenberg:

The Kansas State Historical Society of Topeka maintains a museum and would, I think, be the logical depository for the revolver of Wild Bill Hickok. The Society has a large fireproof building, if I remember correctly, and at any rate I am sure that it would appreciate the revolver and give it proper care. Mr. Kirke Mechem is the secretary of the Society.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

August 2, 1934

Dr. A. R. Newsome,
The North Carolina Historical Commission,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dear Mr. Newsome:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your "Unprinted Public Archives of the Post Colonial Period-- Their Availability." I read this in manuscript some time ago at the request of Cole and recommended it for publication in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. Of course, the American Historical Review is an even more appropriate place for it. I had noted its publication in the July number but I am very glad to have a copy in separate form.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

8

4

The North Carolina Historical Commission

M. C. S. NOBLE, CHAPEL HILL
HERIOT CLARKSON, RALEIGH
MRS. THOMAS O'BERRY, GOLDSBORO
MISS NELL BATTLE LEWIS, RALEIGH

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RALEIGH

M. C. S. NOBLE, CHAIRMAN
A. R. NEWSOME, SECRETARY

April 20th, 1935.

APR 22 1935

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:

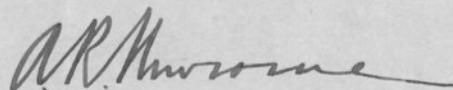
I greatly appreciate your reply of April 10th to my inquiry concerning the subjects assigned to our special committee for investigation.

Your ideas will be of definite help, I am sure, in the formulation of our report. We have a very broad and difficult field of investigation. I regret that I cannot attend the M. V. H. A. meeting and discuss fully with you the points at issue.

I am inclined to agree with you in your doubts as to the ability of an organization of archivists to sustain itself at this time.

With my best regards and good wishes,

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

N/B

8

July 10, 1935

Dr. A. R. Newsome, Secretary
The North Carolina Historical Commission
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Newsome:

In the first place, I want to congratulate you on your appointment to the headship of the department of history in the University of North Carolina. I trust, however, that you will not lose your interest in archival work, especially as it appears likely that I shall be moving to Washington to serve as director of publications in the National Archives. According to the papers, the President has sent my name to the Senate, and I do not anticipate any difficulty over confirmation. I do not know, however, how soon I shall be going to Washington.

I have given considerable thought to the matter of the work of the Public Archives Commission and other agencies of the American Historical Association since our correspondence on the subject. I am still doubtful about the advisability of a special archives society but I think that some sort of a bulletin of archival information might be useful. Some years ago a number of us discussed the advisability of having the Public Archives Commission get out a general report on the archives of the states in a single volume, which would not attempt to list all the files as the old series of reports did, but would give more general and up-to-date information about the nature of the archives in the various states, how they are cared for, and where they are to be found, with references, of course, to the earlier reports.

When and if I go to Washington I trust that I shall have an opportunity to see you there sometime and to talk over with you some of these matters.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

P

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL

4

July 16, 1935

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
The Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

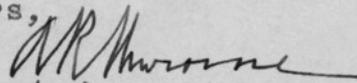
Dear Dr. Buck:

I greatly appreciate the thoughtful expression of your favorable reaction to my Chapel Hill appointment, and am delighted to learn that you are on the point of moving to Washington as Director of Publications in the National Archives. I have been thinking since his appointment that Mr. Connor in time would be turning to you for assistance in some responsible position in the Archives. I am glad that the way has virtually been cleared. There certainly should be no trouble with the Senate confirmation. This appointment pleases me much more than any of the others of which I have heard. You have now and always my sincerest good wishes and confidence.

I have been so busy during the past month or two with the overlapping responsibilities of my new and old positions, and with a new course in the summer school, that I have necessarily given little thought to the Committee organization of the American Historical Association concerning which our Committee is supposed to report. Beginning next week I shall give intensive consideration to it. I appreciate all of the suggestions which you have furnished.

Professor Rippey, who is chairman of the A.H.A. program committee for the Chattanooga meeting in December, has asked me to arrange either a conference at one of the general sessions or a luncheon for the archivists. I suppose the conference would be decidedly preferable. We will need about 3 good 20 minute papers or their equivalent. I think that Mr. Connor and the National Archives should naturally step into the lead of the archival movement. Certainly I shall not lose any of my interest in archival work--I have invested too much in it for that--but state and local archivists everywhere will and should look to the National Archives as the leader. I want you and Mr. Connor to be thinking about a suitable program and to make suggestions as to its nature and personnel. The National Archives staff itself should be represented, I think.

Sincerely yours,


A. R. Newsome
Head

Department of History

ARN/h

P.

August 6, 1935

Dr. A. R. Newsome
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Newsome:

Your kind words concerning my appointment in your letter of July 16 are very much appreciated. I have spent two days in Washington with the staff of the National Archives and I am sure that I am going to enjoy the work there very much. My plans are to move to Washington about September first.

With reference to the proposed archives conference at the Chattanooga meeting, I would suggest that it be in the nature of a panel discussion rather than merely another session at which three papers will be presented. Undoubtedly, Dr. Connor has many ideas by this time of subjects that ought to be brought up for discussion in the field of archives. My own experience is that a round-table informal discussion is usually more valuable than a series of ~~such~~ papers, and we ought to have enough men in the group to provide plenty of discussion without a great deal of preliminary preparation.

I may have to go to Saint Louis for the meeting of the section on historical and philological sciences of the A.A.A.S. about the time of the Chattanooga meeting, but I am hoping that the schedules will be such that I can take in part at least of both meetings. I am supposed to present a paper at Saint Louis as retiring chairman of the section, and it may furnish a good opportunity to do some publicity work for the National Archives.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL

AUG 12 1935

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

August 9, 1935

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Western Pa. Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

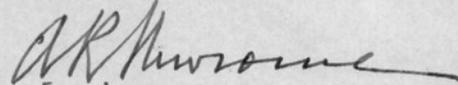
Dear Dr. Buck:

I like your suggestions of August 6th
in respect to a round-table informal discussion.
I shall take up the matter soon with Mr. Connor.

I have just had an interesting letter
from Miss Norton at Springfield telling of the
interesting times she is having as a result of
a recent legislative appropriation of half a
million dollars for a building for the exclusive
use of the Illinois archives.

I am glad to learn of your plans to
move to Washington by September 1st. My best
wishes go with you as you undertake this
interesting new work.

Sincerely yours,



A. R. Newsome
Head

Department of History

ARN/h

OCT 17 1934

7

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
 PHILADELPHIA
 THE COLLEGE

History

October 16, 1934.

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

Dear Buck:

Thank you for your cordial note of the 10th. I shall be glad to take dinner with the Buck family Saturday evening, and it would also be a pleasure to meet the members of your staff at lunch. I am coming out Friday night on the night train, and I am leaving Saturday on the night train. Consequently, I cannot take advantage of your kind offer of putting me up at the University Club. I am speaking Saturday morning at 9:15 at the Board of Education Building Conference Room A. I presume I shall be finished between 11 and 11:30. Please direct me as to where to go from there.

The dates which you suggest seem to me all right for the P.H.A. If precedent is followed, the Middle States will have their meeting on the 26th and 27th, so there should be no conflict. I shall look forward to seeing you, and we can go into these matters more at length.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

R. F. Nichols
 R. F. Nichols

October 18, 1934

Dr. Roy F. Nichols
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Nichols:

I am delighted that my plans for your dinner and lunch on Saturday are agreeable to you. There may not be very many at the luncheon because of late Saturday morning classes and the big football game with Minnesota, which begins at two o'clock. James is on the same program with you on Saturday morning and he will be glad to guide you to our building, which is only three blocks away. In case there should be any slip-up in this arrangement, just walk around the Cathedral of Learning to the corner of Bigelow Boulevard and Fifth Avenue, where the Schenley Hotel is located. Then go one block north on Bigelow Boulevard, cross the street, turn to the right, and you will find me in the second building.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
THE COLLEGE

History

Oct. 23, 1934.

Professor and Mrs. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Society of Western Penna.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Buck:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write this line of thanks for your very hospitable entertainment of me on my recent visit. You provided me with the best kind of a time and I enjoyed particularly renewing my acquaintance with you both and also meeting your friends.

I hope we shall have the opportunity of seeing you with us in Philadelphia sometime before long. Please be sure and let me know whenever we may expect this pleasure.

Sincerely yours,

Ray F. Nichols

RFN/M

8

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

MAR 1 - 1935

History

February 28, 1935.

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

Dear Buck:

Thank you very much for your flattering letter of February 15. I shall do what I can to come to Pittsburgh, but at present it looks doubtful. Bining will come to represent our Department and to bear an invitation for meeting next spring at Philadelphia.

We have been very much saddened by the death of Dr. Ames and he is very much missed. Fortunately, he enjoyed full activity until the last.

Cordially yours,

Roy J. Beckwith

RFN/M

*P.S. Thank you for sending me Boynton's Journal. It is interesting reading.
RFN*

P

MISS LILY LEE NIXON
3720 MCCLURE AVE.
N. S. PITTSBURGH, PA.

July 10, 1935

Dear Dr. Buck,

I have just read in the paper the splendid news of your appointment to the wonderful position in Washington. Please accept my sincerest congratulations. How proud I am to think it was you who was brave enough to print my first work! But Pittsburgh will miss you terribly. Our Historical Society was acquiring quite a prominent place under your

MISS LILY LEE NIXON
3720 MCCLURE AVE.
N. S. PITTSBURGH, PA.

supervision - but that is just one of the reasons why you so thoroughly deserve this advancement.

I am sure you will all enjoy Washington. I have just returned from a week there and at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. Do you know the Dodge Hotel which is handy to the station and the Capital? It used to be under the management of the Y. N. but is entirely separated now and is a lovely homelike hotel where Mrs. Buck might like to stay while hunting living quarters Mrs. William Reed Thompson told

MISS LILY LEE NIXON
3720 MCCLURE AVE.
N. S. PITTSBURGH, PA.

me her folks went there, and I found Senators and government men make it their Washington home. It has such a lovely garden and a roof garden from which I watched the fireworks the night of the fourth. The rates were extremely reasonable.

Wishing you every success and happiness in your new work. I am

Sincerely,
Lily Lee Nixon

P

43

JAN 20 1935

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

20 Jan '35

141 COTTAGE STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

WALLACE NOTESTEIN

Dear Buck:

I have to thank you for the diary of ~~the~~
Lucien C. Boynton. I have read most of it and
it is interesting. I am glad he liked New Haven.
His courtships are interesting. His descriptions of
Rochester interested me.

Remember me to your wife. I am sorry I did not
see more of you in Washington. I'll stop over in
Pittsburgh some day and see you.

Sincerely yours,
Wallace Notestein

P

January 28, 1935

Professor Wallace Notestein
141 Cottage Street
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Notestein:

I have received through the mails an envelope addressed to me with your name on the back of it, but with nothing in it. The flap was open when the envelope reached me, and presumably the contents were lost in the mails. I suspect that you were writing to acknowledge the receipt of the pamphlet that I sent to you recently, but on the chance that there might have been something else in the letter that you wanted brought to my attention I felt that I ought to let you know about this.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

January 29, 1935

Professor Wallace Notestein
141 Cottage Street
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Notestein:

Yesterday I wrote you concerning the empty envelope that I received from you, and this morning I am in receipt in another envelope of what was doubtless intended to be the contents of the first.

I am glad that you found the extracts from the Boynton journal of some interest. The journal has furnished me with a good deal of entertainment since I picked it up in Springfield, Illinois over twenty years ago for the sum of two dollars. Probably I shall sometime give it to the American Antiquarian Society.

Elizabeth and I would be delighted to have you stop over in Pittsburgh sometime and make us a visit.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC

8

YALE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FEB 1 - 1935

30 January, 1935

141 COTTAGE STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

WALLACE NOTESTEIN
ENGLISH HISTORY

My dear Buck:-

I did write you acknowledging that diary. I read most of it and was a great deal interested in it. I should think the man very typical of many in that time. In many ways he is very American. A good deal can be read between the lines. The change in his religious life is interesting.

Remember me to Elizabeth. I hope I see you people one of these times. I do go through Pittsburgh on the train.

Sincerely Yours,

Wallace Notestein

P

2705 Broadway Ave.,
Dormont, Pgh., Pa.
July 18, 1935.

3

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
4360 Centre Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

It was with both pleasure and regret that I read of your nomination as director of publications in the new national archives service — pleasure in the distinction shown you and regret at losing a very helpful teacher and guide. This nomination by the President of the United States is indeed an honor to you and the high quality of your historical works. I

sincerely wish you every
success and prosperity in
your new field of endeavor
in the nation's Capitol.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Novak.

August 6, 1935

Miss Beatrice Novak

2705 Broadway Avenue

Dormont, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Miss Novak:

It was kind of you to write concerning my appointment in the National Archives, and I assure you that it was much appreciated. The position offers an opportunity to do some valuable work and I am sure that I shall enjoy it very much.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

DSC

P

Miss Grace L. Nute.

Minnesota Historical Society.

HISTORICAL BUILDING, 4336 ~~Highway~~ ^{Saint Paul, Minnesota} Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 30, 1934

Dear Miss Nute:

Congratulations on your appointment to the Guggenheim Fellowship. I was delighted to learn of it and I am sure that you will have an interesting and profitable experience

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

two different types of projectors,
for film reading. Mr. Gates
and Mr. Douglas are both
greatly interested. My brother-
in-law, with his engineering
skill, has been of great service
to us. He has another job now,
however, and I'll have to
find someone else to play
with ultra-violet and infra-
red filters and fluorescence.

Please give my best
regards to Mrs. Buck. I hope
I shall see you both again
in the not too distant future.

Cordially yours,

Grace See Nute

P
MAY 17 1934

838 Lincoln Ave.

St. Paul, Minn.

May 15, 1934

Dear Mr. Buck,

It was ever so pleasant
to get your card of congratulation.
I suspect you had "quite a
finger in the pie" when it
came to my getting the award.
Naturally I am quite thrilled
and am planning about
three years' activities for my
twelve months.

I am sailing from Quebec
on August 29 on the Empress
of Australia, a Canadian
Pacific boat. I shall do some
research in Canada before
I leave and get a glimpse
of the tercentenary activities
in Three Rivers — my
heroes' home, as the French
would say. I'm a little
inclined just now to view
them a ~~little~~ more as rogues
than heroes.

We missed you at Lubana last Christmas, but I consoled myself with the thought that I should see you in April. Then I was disappointed once more. Columbia was all fresh and lovely in new spring dress, which I enjoyed all the more for having left a rather barren-looking, winterish landscape. But on the way back the temperature changed with a vengeance, and we jumped into summer in Minnesota overnight. I went up to Pine City the following weekend and found everyone swimming in the lake! That is pretty good for Minnesota in early May. But we need rain so much! Dust storms have been almost unbelievable here this spring. Actually, without exaggeration, we couldn't see the road ahead of my car on a trip back from

Monis recently. It was a novel experience for me.

As you may know already, Charles Gates is to take my place at the Society next year; and Jess Douglas will do the teaching at Hamline, I believe.

Mr. Bubner and Mr. Innis are pulling wires to have me collect data for a new Champlain Society volume on early exploration in Hudson Bay, while I am working with Radisson and Josselliers. It would be a simple matter to do so, for I have to study the period thoroughly for my own purposes.

We are doing a lot of work with our Seica camera equipment. Just now I am having a man build a contact printer for films — one that will really work. The Seica's own printer is a joke in my estimation. I am also having him build

would be invaluable for the history of much of the West. He was simply inexhaustible, apparently, for he traveled without cease, almost, and wrote, it would seem, from morning to night. When he didn't write, he dictated.

Then there is a whole new chapter to be written, I find from these archives, on the fourteenth colony. Why have historians failed to link the Hudson's Bay Company's Colony with the other thirteen, with which it was so inextricably associated, even to the point of members of the Company and governors, ^{being identical} to the Carolina colonies and Hudson Bay were settled by the same men, and, of course, governed by the same ideas to no slight extent. Boston and Hudson Bay, New York and the H.B.Co. colony, New Jersey and the same colony, were always comparing notes, getting together to oppose the French menace, appearing together before the Commissioners for Trade and Plantation here in London, and in other ways acting in concert. When the French war began in 1689, a great deal of the fighting occurred in Hudson Bay, which kept in close touch with the colonies to the South.

There is a great deal of data on this phase of American history. One great parchment-covered ledger, containing

6
Carlton Mansions
9-10, Bedford Place
London, W.C. 1
November 14, 1934

P
Nutt
Dear Mr. Buck,

I am going to address this letter to you in care of the University of Pittsburgh, for I haven't your street address with me. I hope that it will reach you, eventually.

For several weeks I have been burrowing in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company, but I have completed my main work there now. It is a fascinating collection, rich in data for the history of the North American continent and world trade conditions from 1667 to this very day. One of the last day I was there the archivist, Mr. Severson Jouer, asked me, rather diffidently, whether I thought there would be a place in America for a publishing society, similar to the Champlain Society, which should have scholars edit, say two books a year, from the archives of the H.B.Co. at a membership fee of ten dollars per annum (books included).

Since I had kept wishing, all the time I was using the archives, that this book and that, this group

of letters and that, this post journal and that, could be published, I said straight away that I thought such a publication society would succeed. However, I said that I would ask more expert advice. Hence this letter to you.

Professor Arthur Morton, who was working in these archives last year, recommended such a society and drew up a tentative outline of its fees, membership requirements, editorial and executive boards, etc. I gave Mr. Severon Gower your name and address, which he proposes to send to Mr. Morton at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Morton vouched for the society in Canada, but felt unqualified to predict its success in the United States and told Mr. G. Gower to consult me when I arrived. So you will hear from Mr. Morton, I suspect, in the near future. Meantime I thought it wise to give you, a little in advance, some of the facts in the situation.

Mr. Severon Gower, with two assistants, is putting

the archives into a classification that has been worked out with the aid of Mr. Jenks (?) of the Record Office. It seems quite adequate to me, and Mr. S. G. and his assistants appear to be doing a fine, thorough job. At present they are arranging all the post papers: journals, letter books, letters received, lists of engages, etc. Each post is thus represented by its own archives, and a big map on the wall shows the location of the post. Mr. Morton helped them incalculably, so they say, about locating the posts and identifying papers that were not clearly marked as to post affiliation. I was able to help them a little in the matter of the Minnesota posts and presented them with a copy of my article on the Minnesota posts. Later they will organize the archives of the London office. The papers of Sir George Simpson are overwhelming, both as to quantity and quality. Personally, I should like to see an edition of his papers appear. They would cover the significant years of his career, 1820-1860, and

about 200 posts
as I recall

American history, largely through their relations with prominent men of the day, such as King Charles II, James II, Marlborough, Prince Rupert, Louis XIV and his chief ministers, Frontenac, Colbert, the Jesuits, and others of more or less importance. In other words, the question of "the first landing isle" and similar problems fade into insignificance in view of what the men meant for British control of North America and for French haste in discovery ^{in order} to counteract that growing British control. However, I have pretty definitely proved that the Bodleian manuscript ^{of Radisson's narrative} is a translation, that Radisson was born in Avignon, and that he was in Quebec in 1655 and hence could not have been one of the two men whom De Lauson sent West 1654-1656. These were all controversial points and I am glad to throw light on them, even if they are more academic than fundamental.

I am living in pleasant quarters in London and have opportunity for many new friendships and a great deal of pleasurable and profitable experience. I shall begin my work at the Record Office soon. There I hope to find a good deal of material. Then, about the first of March, I shall go to Paris. I dread the leap into French conversation, but it will be a rare opportunity to perfect my knowledge of the language.

Please remember me to Mrs. Buck. I hope all goes well with both of you.
Sincerely yours,
Grace See Nute

copies of letters and memorials, could be edited and published complete. It dates from about 1680 to 1696, as I recall, and is followed by another volume that carries the story well into the ^{eighteenth} century.

Mr. Norton's idea is to have the publication society quite divorced from the H.B.Co. Members would, presumably, choose a group that would serve as a Council, which, in turn, would appoint the general editor. He, probably with the advice of the Council, would choose the papers to be edited and request the best scholar in the field to do the editing for each individual item. I said I thought the choice of general editor was all important, and that the choice of typist was only less so. These old documents require a special technique in copying. But I told him that you could advise on all these points and that I felt sure you would be willing to look over the proposed outline of organization and pass judgment on the chances for success that it will have, as well as offer constructive criticism.

Of course, the H.B.Co. should be represented on the Council by Mr. Sevenson Gower, and he should

be the one to supervise the typing. He is well qualified, and meticulously careful of details. He knows the entire collection, has been in Canada, and is a true scholar. His personal appearance, mannerisms, and voice are against him, but I feel great confidence in his ability. Moreover, he is approachable and genial, which cannot be said of all Englishmen.

I told Mr. S.G. that I thought you would want to sound out opinion at the Xmas meetings of the historical societies and learned bodies; and that for that reason, Mr. Morton should hasten to write you the details of what I am barely sketching. I read over the proposed rules of organization and publication, but I did not have time to give them the study that must go to them before any general proposal can be made.

I hope I am not wishing too much on you. I personally feel that now is the time to strike for what we have not dared to hope in the past. Should you be convinced of the feasibility of the plan and offer some proof for your expectation

to be published when the annual indigenous
March. There is at least one alternative scheme - publication by
the company in a rather haphazard way.

that American libraries and individuals will buy five hundred copies of any book that is edited, Mr. Season Jowett will probably persuade the company to adopt that way of publishing its records. It seems the sensible way to me. Mr. Morton might very well be the first general editor. At least he is a careful historian who is well acquainted with the records themselves and with the geographical area that they represent. Whether he knows the mechanics of book-publishing I am not in a position to know. There you and Mr. Blegen can judge much better than I.

Well, well, I haven't left much space for general news. As regards my own work, it goes so well that I am amazed. Both in Canada and England I have found so much material on Radisson and Desjosseliers that they are becoming distinct personalities to me. I have settled some of the controversial points in their careers, but mainly I have found new material that points to their significance for North

December 26, 1934

Dr. Grace L. Nute
Carlton Mansions
9-10 Bedford Place
London, W. C., 1

Dear Miss Nute:

Your letter of November 14 was duly received and read with much interest. I delayed reply, expecting to hear from Mr. Morton, but as no letter has come from him and I am leaving tonight for the American Historical Association meeting, I thought that I had better let you know that I had received your letter and have been giving some thought to the matter of the proposed society for the publication of the Hudson Bay Company records.

There is no question in my mind but that publication of as much of this material as possible and as rapidly as possible is extremely desirable from the standpoint of scholarship. That a society such as you suggest could probably succeed in disposing of at least five hundred copies of an annual volume of such documents is very probable in view of the fact that the volumes would be in demand not only in the United States and Canada but also in England. I think that the Canadians and the Englishmen have had much more experience with subscription publication of this sort than any of us in the United States. My own experience has been negative thus far, as you doubtless know. We have planned to dispose of the Alford Memorial publication of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association on a subscription basis, but so far we have not had opportunity to try it out because of the difficulty I have experienced in getting the editors to complete the preparation of their materials. I am inclined to think that the proposed organization would be confronted with the same difficulty unless it had a considerable fund available for copying and editorial work. The competent people who are willing to undertake work of this sort without compensation are always so busy with other things that it takes them a long time to produce results.

Even assuming that such an organization would succeed in getting out a volume a year, it would take many years to make all the important material available to students, and the expense to libraries and individuals would amount in the long run to a very considerable sum of money. I am wondering, therefore, if it might not be worth while to consider the possibility of bringing out the material by one of the near-print processes, which would be much less expensive than ordinary printing. If printing is adopted I would suggest that a thin paper of the best quality and condensed type be used, so that as much as possible might be included in each volume. The volumes published by the Champlain Society are attractive to look at but they must be very expensive to print in proportion to the amount of text contained in them. It is possible, however, that the Hudson Bay Company officials and others interested

Dr. Grace L. Nute

-2-

would feel that nothing except elaborate printing would have sufficient dignity. The scholar's interest, however, is to have the material made available as rapidly as possible rather than in the appearance of the results.

I am glad to know that you are having such success with your work on Radisson and Groseilliers, and I feel sure that you will make a valuable contribution on the subject. If you can settle some of the controverted issues it will be a feather in your cap, even though they may be unimportant.

Elizabeth and the children are all well, and the children continue to grow like weeds. Roger is almost as tall as his mother now. We still miss Minnesota, and I am looking forward to seeing the Minnesota delegation in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:DSC