

P1494 Buck, Solon Justus, 1884-1962.
Papers, 1902-1935, 1960.
5.75 cu. ft. (14 boxes).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Solon Justus Buck was born on August 16, 1884 in Berlin, Wisconsin, son of Charles A. and Clara Luther Buck. Following graduation from the University of Wisconsin (1900-1906) and Harvard University (1906-1908, 1911) he was employed as an Indiana University history instructor (1908-1909). In 1910 he moved to the University of Illinois history department where he held positions as research assistant (1910-1911) and associate (1912-1914). In 1914 he accepted both an assistant professorship at the University of Minnesota and the superintendency of the Minnesota Historical Society. During his years in Minnesota he rose to a full professorship at the university and completely reorganized the historical society, launching its quarterly magazine, moving the society into its own building, expanding the library and modernizing the museum, actively collecting manuscripts and developing a system for handling the state archives, and editing William W. Folwell's multi-volume history of Minnesota. In 1931 he accepted a history professorship at the University of Pittsburgh and the directorship of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey. He also served as editor of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine.

Buck was appointed director of publications (later research and publications) at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. in 1935. In that position he produced the first "Guide to the Materials in the National Archives" (1937) and served as a lecturer on American history at the American University, Washington, D.C. (1937), as delegate to the Eighth International Congress on Historical Science (1938), as chair of the United States delegation to the Fourteenth International Federation for Documentation (1938), as visiting professor in archives administration at Columbia University (1938-1939), and as chair of the National Archives' committee to study

finding mediums (1941). He also taught, with Ernst Posner at the American University, the first American class in both the history and administration of archives (1939-1940).

In 1941 Buck was appointed the second archivist of the United States, serving through the war years and becoming a pioneer in records management programs in the federal agencies. From 1948 to 1954 he was chief of the Library of Congress's Manuscripts Division, during which time he held the library's chair in American history (1948-1951) and served as assistant librarian, conservator of manuscripts, and representative on the National Historical Publications Commission (1951-1954).

Buck was very active in professional historical and archival organizations, serving as a member and often as an officer in the following: Agricultural History Society (president, 1928-1929), American Antiquarian Society, American Documentation Institute (a founder), American Historical Association (treasurer, 1936-1956 and endowment secretary, 1926) and its Public Archives Commission, British Records Association, Conference of [State and Local] Historical Societies (Secretary, 1913), International Council on Archives (a founder and vice-president, 1948), Mississippi Valley Historical Association (president, 1922-1923), Pennsylvania Historical Association, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Gamma Delta, Society of American Archivists (a founder and president, 1945-1947), and the state historical societies of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Western Pennsylvania.

He was also a well-known author. His publications included The Granger Movement (1913); Bibliography of Illinois Travel and Descriptions, 1765-1865, part of the Illinois Historical Collections Bibliographic Series (1914); Illinois in 1818, for the Illinois Centennial Commission (1917); and The Agrarian Crusade (1920). With Elizabeth H. Buck he wrote Stories of Early Minnesota (1925) and Planting Civilization in Western Pennsylvania (1939).

He married Elizabeth Hawthorn on June 20, 1919. They had three children, Roger Conant, Mary Margaret, and Stephen Farrington. Buck died on May 25, 1962 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Berlin, Wisconsin.

Biographical data was taken from Who Was Who in America, 1961-1968, Vol. IV (Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 1968), p. 132 and The American Archivist Vol. 23, July 1960, pp. 259-269 and 369-370 and Vol. 25, July 1962, p. 382.

Consult the card catalog for the location of oversized Buck papers.

For further information on Buck, see the Minnesota Historical Society Archives, the Alvord (Clarence W.) Memorial Commission Papers, the Wayne Edson Stevens Papers, and a 1951 letter from W. Neil Franklin to Buck, all in the Division of Archives and Manuscripts, and the Solon J. Buck Papers (1901-1957) in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (NUCMC MS 62-4618).

Cheryl Norenberg Thies
August 1985

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ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE NOTE

The collection is organized into five series: biographical data (1931, 1960), correspondence and related materials (1902-1935), Alvord (Clarence W.) Memorial Commission papers (1930-1935), Joint Committee on the Enlargement, Improvement, and Preservation of Data papers and reports (1930-1935), and manuscripts, transcripts, and publications (1910-1934). The papers mainly provide information on Buck's professional activities, detailing his academic and historical agency positions in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania; his membership in historical and archival organizations, such as the American Historical Association and its Public Archives Commission, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Conference of Archivists, Agricultural History Society, and Conference of [State and Local] Historical Societies (predecessor of the American Association for State and Local History); and his active writing career, particularly publication of his many books and articles and reviews for such journals as the Mississippi Valley Historical Review and American History Review.

Note: The researcher is urged to also check the Minnesota Historical Society Archives (also in the Division of Archives and Manuscripts), since during the years of Buck's superintendency the same subjects and correspondents are often found in those records.

BOX LIST

- Box 1. Biographical Data, 1931, 1960.
Correspondence and Related Materials:
1902-1913. 12 folders.
1914-1915. 2 folders.
A-B, including separate file, Alvord, 1914.
- Box 2. 1914-1915. 17 folders.
C-R, including separate files, Alvord, 1915 - Quaife.
- Box 3. 1914-1915. 10 folders.
S-Y, including separate files, Paine - Woodburn.
1916-1917. 9 folders.
A-F, including separate files, Alvord - Carter.
- Box 4. 1916-1917. 20 folders.
G-T, including separate files, Cox - Torch Press Book Shop.
- Box 5. 1916-1917. 3 folders.
V-Z, including separate files, Weber - White.
1918-1919. 14 folders.
A-W, including separate files, Alvord - Shearer.
- Box 6. 1918-1919. 5 folders.
Including separate files, Shortridge - Wilson.
1920-1921. 11 folders.
Including separate files, Alvord - Yale University Press.
1922-1926. 2 folders.
A, including separate file, Alvord.
- Box 7. 1922-1926. 11 folders.
B-R, including separate files, American Historical Association -
Mississippi Valley Historical Review.
- Box 8. 1922-1926. 3 folders.
S-Z, including separate file, Palmes.
1927-1928. 9 folders.
A-L, including separate files, Agricultural Historical Society -
Harvard University.

BOX LIST, continued

- Box 9. Correspondence and Related Materials, cont.:
1927-1928. 6 folders.
M-Z, including separate files, Mississippi Valley Historical Association - Quaife.
1929-1933. 10 folders.
A-B, including separate files, American Antiquarian - Association - Book Dealers.
- Box 10. 1929-1933. 14 folders.
C-M, including separate files, Carter - Minnesota Historical Society.
- Box 11. 1929-1933. 13 folders.
N-Z, including separate files, Minnesota, University of - Pennsylvania, University of.
- Box 12. 1934-1935. 13 folders.
A-P.
- Box 13. 1934-1935. 2 folders.
Q-Z, including separate file, Pennsylvania Historical Society.
Alvord Memorial Commission Papers, 1930-1935.
Joint Committee on the Enlargement, Improvement, and Preservation of Data:
Correspondence, 1930-1935. 5 folders.
Reports, 1930. 2 folders.
- Box 14. Reports, 1931-1934. 4 folders.
Manuscripts, 1922-1931.
Transcripts: Radio Talks, 1923, 1928.
Publications: Articles, 1918-1934.
Publications: Reprints and Booklets, 1910-1934. 2 folders.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Biographical Data, 1931, 1960

Contains a bibliography of Buck's publications (1931) and two 1960 articles from The American Archivist: "Solon Justus Buck -- Scholar - Administrator" by Theodore C. Blegen and "Solon Justus Buck -- Archivist" by Ernst Posner, both originally read at the April 8, 1960 unveiling of Buck's portrait in the National Archives.

Correspondence and Related Materials

1902-1935

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters between Buck and his colleagues in the historical and archival professions. They detail his academic and historical Society duties; his roles in the various professional organizations, particularly the American Historical Association (AHA), Mississippi Valley Historical Association (MVHA), and Conference of Historical Societies; and his many publications. Found throughout are his appointments to various positions; recommendation letters for former students; correspondence with colleagues discussing their mutual professional activities; and letters, reports, and related papers reflecting his role in the professional organizations, particularly offices held, committees served on, and papers delivered, and his active publishing career.

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically within several time periods of varying lengths (received in this order by the Society). The following general annotations highlight special events or subjects covered in each time period. Each time period also contains separate folders for substantial amounts of material related to a particular individual or organization, interfiled alphabetically among the folders of general correspondence. Those folders are listed after each general annotation and, when necessary, also have brief content notes. Whenever possible, each individual who warranted a separate folder has been identified as to his or her place of employment or academic affiliation upon first mention or change. The reader is urged to check both organizations and individuals related to a topic, for Buck often filed items under both types of heading.

1902-1913

Includes correspondence concerning Buck's search for an academic position (1908); his appointments at the Universities of Wisconsin (1904-1905), Indiana (1908), and Illinois (1910-1912), as a recipient of Harvard University's Thayer Scholarship (1906) and Francis Parkman Fellowship (1907), and as Conference of Historical Societies' secretary (1913); his 1911 paper on the Granger movement; his work on The Granger Movement for the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C., primarily with Kenyon L. Butterfield, and congratulatory letters following its publication (1907-1913); his collection of guidebooks and information for Bibliography of Illinois Travels and Descriptions, including letters from Reuben G. Thwaites, State Historical Society of Wisconsin superintendent, describing several Norwegian and Swedish guides (1913); and Buck's editing and publication of the Pioneer Letters of Gershom Flagg, mainly with Flagg's grandson, Norman Gershom Flagg, and numerous thank-yous for the volume (1911-1913). There are exchanges of correspondence with Frederick J. Turner regarding his recommendation of Buck for Harvard and publication of Buck's thesis (1904-1912); with Victor H. Paltsits, AHA Public Archives Commission chair, concerning a Buck paper on the centralization of local archives (1913); and with Otto L. Schmidt, Illinois Centennial Commission chair, detailing Buck's appointment as editor of Illinois in 1818 (1913).

Alvord, Clarence W.

Managing editor, Mississippi Valley Historical Review.

Details Buck's eight-month appointment as a University of Illinois history department research associate (1909) and as acting agent of the Illinois State Historical Library, particularly in collection papers and information on land and fur trade companies in early Illinois (1911).

Fuller, George N.

Mainly personal letters with comments on life at Harvard (1908) and his history positions at the Dillon, Montana State Normal College (1909) and University of Michigan (1910), and as Michigan Historical Commission executive secretary (1913).

Granger Movement, The

Correspondence with state granges and the National Grange while gathering information for the book (1902-1907, 1913).

(See Buck's oversize papers for maps used in this publication.)

Greene, Evarts B.

Dean, University of Illinois, College of Literature and Arts.

Concerns Buck's appointment as University of Illinois research assistant (1909) and Greene's activities as visiting history faculty member at the Imperial University, Tokyo (1912).

1914-1915

Contains details of Buck's selection as Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) superintendent and appointment as University of Minnesota (U of M) assistant history professor (1914), his resignation from the University of Illinois (1914), and his appointments to the AHA's general committee (1914) and Public Archives Commission (1915) and as the U of M's representative to the Second Pan American Scientific Conference (1915); numerous congratulatory letters on the MHS superintendency and on publication of his Bibliography of Illinois Travels and Descriptions (1914); and letters from Newton D. Mereness detailing his Washington, D.C. research for Buck's Illinois in 1818 (1914).

Alvord, Clarence W.

Details events at the University of Illinois, Buck's U of M professorial duties, Alvord's appointment as Illinois Historical Survey director (1915), and publication of Buck's paper "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest, 1914-1915" in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review (MVHR) (1915).

Bibliography of Illinois Travels and Descriptions

Mostly thank-yous; also some clippings and reviews (1914). Includes Alvord's handwritten review.

Esarey, Logan

Secretary, Indiana Historical Survey.

Ford, Guy S.

Dean, U of M Graduate School.

Concerns Buck's role and activities at MHS (1914) and the need to draft and act to reorganize historical activities in Minnesota (Sept. - Oct. 1914).

Fuller, George N.

Executive Secretary, Michigan Historical Commission.

Mainly concerns the operation and work of the AHA.

Harvard University Press

Details the republication of The Granger Movement.

Hockett, Homer C.

Ohio State University, History Department.

Concerns state and local historical work in Ohio.

1914-1915, cont.Kellar, Herbert A.

Director, McCormick Historical Association (Chicago).

Details his historical work in California (1914) and Chicago (1915).

Leland, Waldo

AHA Secretary.

Michigan Historical Commission

Primarily with secretary and editor Charles Moore, regarding the commission's publications.

Munro, Dana C.

University of Wisconsin (1914); Princeton University (1915).

Paine, Clarence S.

MVHA Secretary/Treasurer.

Details Buck's appointment to the MVHA committee on historic sites (1914).

Paltsits, Victor H.

Chair, AHA Public Archives Commission.

Includes notice of Buck's 1914 appointment to the commission and an invitation to the Sixth Annual Conference of Archivists.

Pease, Theodore C.

University of Illinois; Illinois Centennial Commission.

Concerns research work done for Illinois in 1818.

Quaife, Milo M.

Superintendent, State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHSW).

Concerns Buck's article on historical activities in the northwest (1914) and SHSW publications.

Schmidt, Otto L.

Chair, Illinois Centennial Commission.

Mainly concerns the commission and Buck's authorship of Illinois in 1818, including his bills for research and travel.

Stevens, Wayne E.

Details his research work for Illinois in 1818.

1914-1915, cont.Stock, Leo

Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C.

Details his research for Illinois in 1818.

Turner, Frederick Jackson

Harvard University.

Weber, Jessie Palmer

Secretary, Illinois State Historical Society/Library.

Concerns Buck's reviews of various of the Society's publications.

Woodburn, James A.

Director, Indiana Historical Society.

1916-1917

Includes Buck's 1916 American Antiquarian Society membership and correspondence with the society's librarian, Clarence S. Brigham (1916-1917); numerous congratulatory letters following publication of Illinois in 1818 (1917); and correspondence concerning his appointment to the National Highways Association's Division of Historic Highways (1916), collection of evidence for the Minnesota attorney general in a U.S. Supreme Court case to determine the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary (1917), service on a Twin City Library's Club committee to establish a library at Fort Snelling (1917), report as the U of M's representative to the Second Pan American Scientific Conference (1916), and promotion to U of M associate history professor (1917). There are letters from William S. Davis, U of M history professor, soliciting Liberty Loan subscriptions (1917), and from Robert M. McElroy, Princeton University, detailing a proposal to establish a Washington, D.C. residence house where universities could send graduate students to do a systematic study of the government's archives and manuscript collections (1916). Other correspondents include Charles F. Kelley, Ohio State University, concerning his personal friendship with Buck (1916-1917); Louis Pelzer, University of Iowa, questioning MVHA meetings policy (1917); Wilson P. Shortridge, University of Montana, discussing his thesis research on Henry H. Sibley (1917); Frederick Jackson Turner (1916-1917); and The Torch Press Book Shop, Cedar Rapids, Iowa concerning its publication of the MVHA Proceedings and the MVHR (1916-1917).

1916-1917, cont.Alvord, Clarence W.

Illinois Historical Survey director; MVHR managing editor.

Primarily discusses Buck's writing of Illinois in 1818 for the Illinois Centennial Commission (of which Alvord was a member), including comments on Buck's aide Frances Relf's salary (1916), questions concerning publication from the volume's editor, Ruth E. Hodsdon (1916), and praise upon its completion (1917). Also comments on a new MVHR board of editors and financial problems and amending the MVHA constitution (1916), and correspondence (mainly with Alvord's secretary, Leila O. White, 1917) regarding Alvord's serious illness, during which Buck handled publication of the MVHA Proceedings.

Becker, Carl L.

Kansas State University, Lawrence, Kansas.

Carter, Clarence E.

Miami University, Miami, Ohio.

Discusses his work on the MVHA nominating committee during Buck's chairmanship (1916).

Cox, Isaac J.

University of Cincinnati.

Requests Buck speak on the functions of a state historical society at the AHA annual meeting.

Extension Division, U of M

Details Buck's extension courses and his replies to complaints about some of the history department's correspondence courses (1916).

Ford, Guy S.

Discusses history department applicants to the graduate school (1917) and his work as director of the division of Civic and Education Cooperation, Committee on Public Information, Washington, D.C. (after September 1917).

Greene, Evarts B.

AHA Executive Council Secretary.

Includes Buck's 1916 and 1917 appointments to the AHA's Public Archives Commission.

1916-1917, cont.

Johnson, Allen

Yale University History Department.

Details Buck's agreement to write a volume on the farmer's movement for The Chronicles, Yale University Press's new history of the American people. Johnson was the project editor.

Kellar, Herbert A.

Mainly personal letters; includes a number concerning Kellar's report on his study of the Minnesota state archives (1916).

Paine, Clarence S.

Primarily MVHA-related, including Buck's appointments as chair of the nominating committee (1916) and local arrangements committee for the 1918 meeting held in St. Paul (1917) and discussion of combining the MVHA and MVHR (1916). Following Paine's June 14, 1916 death, the correspondence was continued with his wife, Clara S. Paine, who served first as acting secretary/treasurer and then was elected to the position.

Paltsits, Victor H.

Completely dealing with Public Archives Commission activities, particularly ideas for the next Conference of Archivists (1916), the possibility of a combined meeting with the Historical Manuscripts Commission devoted to the collection of war materials (1917), and Buck's preparation of a paper on "War Archives of the States" (1917).

Paxson, Frederic L.

University of Wisconsin History Department.

Concerns the possible elimination of the MVHA vice-presidencies (1916).

Pease, Theodore C.

Details Pease's editing of the Illinois in 1818 galley proofs.

Schmidt, Otto L.

Mainly discussion of Illinois in 1818.

1916-1917, cont.Shearer, Augustus H.

The Newberry Library, Chicago.

Discusses the need for a statement of the goals and organization on the Conference of Historical Societies (1916) and his move to the Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, New York (1917).

Shippee, Lester B.

Details his appointment as a U of M history department lecturer and Buck's attempts to find him housing in Minneapolis.

Stevens, Wayne E.

Continues details of his research for Buck's Illinois in 1818 (1916), position at the U of M (1917), application to the Fort Snelling military officer's reserve training camp (April 1917), and detailed descriptions of military life at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico (Sept.-Dec. 1917).

Weber, Jessie PalmerWhite, Albert B.

U of M History Department.

Mainly concerns Wayne E. Stevens' 1917 U of M appointment.

1918-1919

Numerous congratulatory letters on the dedication of the MHS's new building (1918) and Buck's marriage (1919); requests to judge debates at several local colleges; and correspondence with Guy S. Ford concerning the possibility of Buck receiving a U.S. Army Commission for special work in the War Department Archives (1918), with W. D. Bailey, a Duluth, Minnesota attorney, detailing the progress in the Minnesota/Wisconsin boundary dispute (1919), with Theodore C. Blegen, MHS, commenting on Blegen's work in the U.S. War Department's Intelligence Division (1919), with Victor H. Paltsits concerning broadening the Public Archives Commission's activities (1919), with St. George L. Sioussot (1918) and Frederick Jackson Turner (1919) concerning Alvord's resignation as MVHR managing editor, and from a personal friend, Cecil Shirk, detailing his service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France (1919).

1918-1919, cont.Alvord, Clarence W. 2 folders.

Details his January, 1918 resignation as MVHR managing editor and March, 1918 withdrawal of the resignation, MVHR publication problems, Alvord's opinion that federal archival records were best kept in the states due to a lack of facilities in Washington, D.C. (1919), and his request that Buck run a campaign to help him obtain the State Historical Society of Wisconsin directorship (Oct. 1919), with numerous recommendation letters from colleagues (Nov. 1919).

Boucher, Chauncey S.

Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

Concerns the 1918 MVHA meeting in St. Paul and publication of its proceedings.

Extension Division, U of M

Primarily with division director Richard R. Price; discusses Buck's courses in "War Aims."

Johnson, Allen

Continues details of Buck's The Agrarian Crusade manuscript for The Chronicles.

Kellar, Herbert A.

Mainly concerns his role as MVHA program committee chair.

Paine, Clara S.

MHVA-related, especially regarding publication of its Proceedings and Buck's election to its executive committee (1919).

Shearer, Augustus H.

Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, New York.

Concerns the Conference of Historical Societies.

Shortridge, Wilson P.

Details his professorship at the University of Louisville and continued work on his thesis about Henry H. Sibley.

Stevens, Wayne E.

Continues descriptions of his military activities at Camp Cody and details his December, 1918 reassignment to the War College, Washington, D.C.

Torch Press Book Shop, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Discusses publication of the MVHA Proceedings.

1918-1919, cont.U.S. War Department

Mainly with the War College Division, especially Frederic L. Paxson as Chief of the Economic Mobilization Section, Historical Branch concerning Buck's impending commission (1919) and the November 13, 1919 suspension of all commissions.

Wilson, M. L.

University of Montana.

1920-1921

Includes Buck's appointments to the AHA Public Archives Commission and its subcommittee on bibliography of American travel (1921) and to the Conference of Historical Societies' committee to compile and publish a handbook of American historical societies (1921); an invitation to a dinner honoring authors and editors of the Centennial History of Illinois (1920); promotion to a U of M history department professorship (1921); and correspondence with Guy S. Ford concerning Alvord's appointment to the U of M history department (1920), with George N. Fuller, Michigan Historical Commission, discussing a proposed national archives association (1920-1921), with Waldo G. Leland, American Council of Learned Societies, concerning the type of manuscript box used by the MHS (1921), from General Douglas MacArthur requesting Buck's comment on the U.S. Military Academy annual report (1921) with Theodore C. Pease detailing his move to the Illinois Historical Commission's editorship following Alvord's resignation (1920), with Elizabeth Murray Shepherd, Woman's History of the World managing editor, concerning lecturing in Minnesota (1920), with Wayne E. Stevens discussing his application to the Soldier's Bonus Board (1920) and appointment as an air force historian (1921), and with Frederick Jackson Turner.

Alvord, Clarence W.

Primarily concerning his U of M history department appointment, particularly problems due to his past ill health and Buck's campaign to fight that discrimination. Also Buck's sketch of Alvord's career and bibliography of his historical work.

Paine, Clara S.

All MVHA-related correspondence.

1920-1921, cont.Paltsits, Victor H.

Details Buck's 1921 appointment to the Public Archives Commission's executive council and discusses holding the Conference of Archivists in conjunction with AHA meetings.

Shortridge, Wilson P.

Concerns publication of his manuscript about Henry H. Sibley.

Yale University Press

Mainly Buck's requests for the publication date of The Agrarian Crusade, reviews of the book, and thank-yous for complimentary copies.

1922-1926

Consists mainly of letters concerning Buck's book Stories of Early Minnesota (1925); his leave of absence from the U of M and MHS to serve as executive secretary of the AHA's Committee on Endowment (1926), including several from Theodore C. Blegen, acting MHS superintendent, reporting MHS events; and Buck's editing of William W. Folwell's multi-volume history of Minnesota (1926), including correspondence with Folwell, Blegen, and Mary E. Wheelhouse, his MHS editorial assistant. There is correspondence with F. S. Crofts detailing the opening of his publishing house in New York City (1926); with the Encyclopedia Britannica concerning Buck's article on Minnesota (1922, 1925-1926); with H. L. Mencken, editor of The American Mercury (1924-1925); with Frederick Jackson Turner detailing his appointment as a U of M summer session professor (1923, 1924) and declination of the MVHA presidency (1925); and with Oliver Wendell Holmes discussing his participation in the 1926 Minnesota Historical Conference and his research work for a dissertation on stagecoaches (1925-1926).

Alvord, Clarence W.

Contains an abstract of his paper "Minnesota as a Pawn in International Politics, 1873-1918" (1922) and letters describing his life while lecturing in England, Italy, and France (1923-1926).

American Historical Association

Includes Buck's appointments to the Public Archives Commission (1922-1925) and as executive secretary of the AHA's Committee on Endowment (1926), with announcements, flyers, stationery, brochures, booklets, and form letters from the latter. Also letters detailing the program for use of the endowment fund income and status of the organization and financial reports.

1922-1926, cont.MacMillan Company

Details publication of Stories of Early Minnesota, including the publication contract (April 1925) and letters regarding illustrations, proofs, and royalty payments (1925-1926).

Mississippi Valley Historical Association

Mainly correspondence with Clara S. Paine, secretary/treasurer and F. H. Hodder, University of Kansas, concerning financial reports and budgets (1924-1926).

Mississippi Valley Historical Review

Primarily deals with the activities of the subcommittee to fill the editorship (1924-1926). Includes a number of recommendations.

Palmes, Mary E.

MHS Employee.

Mainly reports of MHS events during Buck's 1926 leave of absence.

1927-1928

Includes correspondence with Idress (Mrs. Clarence) Alvord in Italy, concerning Alvord's death (1928); with Theodore C. Blegen and Mary E. Palmes, mainly regarding MHS events (1928); with the Dictionary of American Biography, Encyclopedia Britannica, and Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences discussing articles and biographical sketches written by Buck (1928); with Guy S. Ford concerning U of M events; with The MacMillan Company detailing a reprint of Stories of Early Minnesota; with Dana C. Munro, Princeton University, discussing J. Franklin Jameson's resignation as American History Review editor; with Arthur M. Schlesinger, Harvard University, regarding Buck's teaching summer session courses at Harvard (1928); with The Torch Press Book Shop concerning publication of Buck's biographical sketch of Alvord; with Frank K. Walter detailing his establishment of the U of M archives and appointment as its first archivist (1928); and with James F. Willard, University of Colorado, requesting Buck's participation in a proposed 1929 conference on western history (1928). Also present are Buck's appointments to the AHA committee on bibliography and as a Social Science Abstracts consulting editor (1928).

1927-1928, cont.Agricultural History Society

Details Buck's membership and unanimous election as president (1928); primarily with O. C. Stine, secretary/treasurer.

American Historical Association: Committee on Endowment

Mainly with Buck's successor as the committee's executive secretary, Harry J. Carman. There are numerous questions and comments on the committee's progress, news releases, and the executive secretary's 1927 report, and Buck's 1928 appointment to the committee.

American Historical Association: Nomination Committee.

Materials from Buck's service as 1927 committee chair, including background materials, questions sent to committee members and their answers, and the committee's printed report (Nov. 1927).

American Historical Association: Nomination Ballots

Completed nomination ballots for AHA offices; sent to the general membership.

Harvard University

Concerns Buck's teaching of two summer session courses.

Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

Mainly reviews the activities of the committee on policy and the C. W. Alvord publication fund (1928).

Quaife, Milo M.

Details his work as MVHR managing editor and publication of Buck's biographical article on Alvord (1928).

1929-1933

Contains numerous congratulatory letters upon Buck's move to the University of Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey and upon publication of his booklet "The Story of Grand Portage" (1931). Correspondents include Guy S. Ford and William Anderson, U of M, concerning William W. Folwell's death (1929) and Buck's resignation (1931); Lester B. Shippee, U of M, concerning activities of the Alvord Memorial Commission (1931-1932); Frances Densmore concerning her study of American Indian music (1933); Verne E. Chatelain, National Park Service chief historian, detailing his duties and the service's historical publications (1931-1933); Waldo G. Leland detailing his role as American Council of Learned Societies

1929-1933, cont.

permanent secretary (1931-1933); Mary Wheelhouse concerning MHS publications, particularly Minnesota in the War with Germany (1931-1933); The MacMillan Company requesting Buck's support of a revised federal copyright law (1930); the U of M Press concerning Buck's biography of Folwell (1932-1933); Carlton Qualey, a former student, detailing his study at the U of M and Columbia University and work as a Norwegian American Historical Association field agent (1932) and National Park Service historical technician at Gettysburg (1933); and Frederick Jackson Turner discussing his half-time research assistant position at the Huntington Library in California (1929-1931). Also present are Bibliographic Society of America minutes, news-sheets, and membership information (1929-1930, 1932); Buck's appointment to the history committee of Chicago's Century of Progress International Exposition (1931); and correspondence with fellow committee member, James A. James, Northwestern University (1931).

American Military History Foundation

Details its organization (1933).

Blegen, Theodore C.

Numerous letters from Blegen while in Norway collecting "America" letters for the Norwegian-American Historical Association; includes copies of his reports to the association (1929). Also reports on the MHS (1931-1932).

Book Dealers

Letters detailing Buck's attempts to sell unwanted books prior to his move to Pennsylvania (1931).

Carter, Clarence E.

Details his work as U.S. Territorial Papers editor under the U.S. State Department, including a 1933 outline of his progress and plans.

Conference of Historical Societies

Includes reports of the advisory committee on the U.S. Territorial Papers project, of which Buck was a member (1932) and letters regarding his appointment as chair of a committee to collaborate with the American Council of Learned Societies and The Social Science Research Council's Joint Committee on Materials for Research (1933) in reproducing and disseminating research materials.

Dictionary of American Biography

Primarily with Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, editors, regarding Buck's articles for the dictionary.

1929-1933, cont.Holmes, Oliver W.

Mainly personal; some details of his work for the Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York City (1930-1931).

Kellar, Herbert A.Minnesota Historical Society

Includes Buck's resignation letter (May 1931) and the MHS's acceptance (June 1931) and letters from various MHS staff members after his move to Pennsylvania, particularly Mary Wheelhouse regarding the completion of Minnesota in the War With Germany (1932).

Minnesota, University of

Routine correspondence detailing insurance and speaking engagements and Buck's letter of resignation (May 1931) and the U of M's acceptance (June 1931).

Mississippi Valley Historical Association

Concerns Buck's 1929 article, "Some Thoughts on the Publications of the MVHA," and his report for the committee on policy (1929); letters primarily with Clara S. Paine, secretary/treasurer.

Mississippi Valley Historical Review

Mainly with Arthur C. Cole, managing editor; discusses Buck's membership on the board of editors (1931) and publication problems.

Palmes, Mary E.

Reports on MHS events.

Pittsburgh Project

Details a program of research and writing in the history of western Pennsylvania, including the proposal, correspondence with J. W. Oliver, University of Pittsburgh history department head, official notice of Buck's election to head the project (April 1931), and his acceptance (May 1931).

Pittsburgh, University of

Concerns Buck's professorship in history (1931-1933).

1934-1935

Contains numerous letters dealing with the federal legislation to establish a national archives and the appointment of the first Archivist of the United States, R. D. W. Connor, including Connor's thank-you to Buck for withdrawing his name from consideration for the position and Buck's congratulations to Connor upon his appointment (1924). Other letters detailing Buck's appointment as the National Archives' director of publications (1935), including recommendations from Robert M. Ewing, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania president, and Pennsylvania senator Joseph F. Guffey, and congratulatory letters from numerous friends and colleagues. There is correspondence with Clarence E. Carter describing progress on the U.S. Territorial Papers project; with Verne E. Chatelain, National Park Service, discussing a possible national survey of local archival materials under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Civil Works Administration (1934); from the Huntington Library, California, asking to copy Buck's Frederick Jackson Turner letters (1934); and with Herbert A. Kellar and Waldo G. Leland concerning Buck's wish to leave Pennsylvania.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Details Buck's election as chairman of the history and philological sciences section, discovery that he was not an association member, and his subsequent membership (1934).

Blegen, Theodore C.

Concerns the MHS and its meetings and publications, a campaign to obtain a position for Buck at Northwestern University (1934), and Buck's National Archives appointment (1935).

Mississippi Valley Historical Association and Review

Primarily with Arthur C. Cole, managing editor, regarding reports, reviews, and meetings.

National Archives

Concerns efforts to obtain Buck's appointment; includes copies of the telegrams relaying Buck's acceptance (May 1935) and the confirmation of his nomination (July 1935).

National Archives Survey

Background information on Buck's role as Pennsylvania's participant in a 1934 survey of local archives conducted by the American Council of Learned Societies and The Social Science Research Council's Joint Committee on Materials for Research.

Pennsylvania Historical Association

Mainly information on meetings, publications, and officers.

Alvord Memorial Commission, 1930-1935

Correspondence and reports of this Mississippi Valley Historical Association memorial commission whose purpose was to establish a revolving fund for promotion of a Mississippi Valley historical series. Buck was the commission's first chairman. Included are subscription letters containing details of Alvord's career as managing editor of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, a list of subscribers to April 15, 1931, annual commission reports (1931-1933, 1935), and financial reports (1933-1934 and 1934-1935).

**Joint Committee on the Enlargement,
Improvement, and Preservation of Data, 1930-1935**

Correspondence, proposals, agendas, reports, minutes, and related papers of this joint committee of the American Council of Learned Sciences and The Social Sciences Research Council. The committee's purpose was to survey American's total research activities in the social sciences and humanities, including collecting, organizing, preserving, indexing, cataloging, and assembling of data and then disseminate that information to the public through published reports and articles. Buck served as chairman from 1930 through 1931.

The correspondence is mainly with Robert C. Binkley, the committee's secretary (1930-1931) and chair (1932-1935), detailing its organization and operation. There are survey letters to learned societies and other agencies throughout the United States; numerous reports from the committee's investigator (1930); a proposal for the study of manuscripts' relation to American history and literature (Jan. 1931); correspondence concerning Buck's resignation and Binkley's appointment as chair; and a letter from T. R. Schellenberg, committee secretary, detailing a proposed national survey of local archives to be undertaken by the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations of the Department of the Interior (Jan. 1934).

The other papers include agendas and minutes of the committee's eight meetings from 1931 through 1934; numerous reports from related conferences and meetings, collected by the committee (1930-1931); and reports of the committee on materials for research (July 1930), the present state of the committee's work (Jan. 1932), and a draft report to the parent councils (June 1934).

Manuscripts, 1922-1931

The following manuscripts were written by Buck unless otherwise noted.

1. "Notes on Grand Portage and Fort Charlotte," undated. 13 pp., typed.
2. "The Story of Grand Portage," 1922. (2 copies)
7 pp., typed. Published in Minnesota History Bulletin, 5:14-27.
Early history of this important fur trade site on Lake Superior.
3. "The Long Expedition of 1823," June, 1923.
17 pp. Prepared for Governor Theodore Christianson and used in his
"The Long and Beltrami Explorations in Minnesota One Hundred Years
Ago," Minnesota History Bulletin, 5:249-264.
Describes the U.S. War Department's surveying expedition into
Northern Minnesota led by Stephen H. Long.
4. "A Plan -- For Discovering, Conserving, and Making Available Manuscript
Materials for Research in American History," May, 1926. 4 pp.
Proposal for the AHA's Historical Manuscripts Commission to undertake
a survey of the above.
5. "Minnesota," 1929.
39 pp. Original draft, with references, of Buck's article for the
Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition.
6. "Minnesota: A Study Outline," 1929.
24 pp. Prepared by Buck and Elizabeth H. Buck, former U of M
English instructor.
7. Materials to Be Used in an Atlas of the Central Northwest to be Published by
the University of Minnesota, 1929.
21 pp. Prepared by Buck, Grace Lee Nute (MHS), and W. M. Babcock
(U of M).
Includes sections on The Indians, Exploration, The Fur Trade,
Indian Missions, Political Jurisdictions, and the Retreat of the
Indian.

Manuscripts, 1922-1931, cont.

Nos. 8-12 are all biographical sketches written for the Dictionary of American Biography.

8. "Folwell, William W., " Nov. 1929. 4 pp.
9. "Nelson, Knute," ca. Nov. 1929. 3 pp.
10. "Nelson, Rensselaer Russell," ca. Nov. 1929. 2 pp.
11. "Neill, Edward Duffield," Sept. 1930. 4 pp.
Written with Elizabeth H. Buck
12. "Flandreau, Charles Eugene" ca. Sept. 1930. 3 pp.
13. "The Progress of the Minnesota Historical Society, 1914-1931," ca. 1931. 5 pp. Most likely prepared by T. C. Blegen.
Details Buck's MHS superintendency.

**Transcripts: Radio Talks,
1923, 1928**

During 1923 the Minnesota Historical Society was responsible for monthly radio talks on Minnesota Historical subjects. Those given by Buck included:

1. "Introducing Minnesota," April.
18 pp., typed. Handwritten corrections and annotations.
2. "Some Anniversaries in 1923," June 18.
10 pp. typed.

Includes comments on Jolliett and Marquette's discovery of the upper Mississippi River (1673), the first steamboat to reach Fort Snelling (1823), Stephen Long and Giacomo Constanto Beltrami's expeditions (1823), and the Spanish-American War (1898).

3. "The Story of Grand Portage," Aug. 27.
11 pp., typed.
4. "State History and Geographic Names," Dec. 17.
6 pp., typed. Handwritten annotations.

Drafted by Blegen and delivered by Buck, the talk explores the relationship between the two subjects.

The one other transcript, "The Minnesota Historical Society and Some Thanksgiving History," Nov. 29, 1928 (8 pp., typed) was part of a radio series entitled "With Our State Government."

**Publications: Articles,
1918-1934**

The following publications were written by Buck unless otherwise noted.

1. "Historical Preparedness," The History Teacher's Magazine, May 1918, pp. 249-251.

Concerns the need to collect wartime materials.
2. "The Minnesota Historical Society," Michigan Historical Magazine, Oct. 1920, pp. 688-716.

Details the history and operation of the MHS, illustrated with photographs and floor plans of the building.
3. "The Minnesota Historical Society, Its Work and Its Needs," Minnesota Editorial Association Proceedings, 1921, pp. 16-21.

Mainly describes the MHS's newspaper collection and the need for the editorial association to aid MHS in lobbying the state legislature for additional funding.
4. "The West in American History -- Syllabus and References," 1925, compiled by Buck, 26 pp.

Used at the U of M; contains handwritten annotations.
5. "Early History of Minnesota," Aurora (Minn.) News, July 28, 1927.
Photocopied newsclipping, 2 pp.

Details the first settlement and admission to the union.
6. Review of A History of American Life, A. M. Schlesinger and D. R. Fox, editors, in Minnesota History, Dec. 1928, pp. 389-393.
7. "The West in American History to 1815 -- Syllabus and References," revised edition, 1930, compiled by Buck, 16 pp.

Used at the U of M; contains handwritten annotations.
8. "Minnesota Historical Society, 1929," Minnesota History, 1930, pp. 37-50.

Details events at the MHS during 1929.

**Publications: Articles,
1918-1934, cont.**

9. Review of The Coming of the White Man, 1492-1848, Herbert I. Priestly, Minnesota History, March 1930, pp. 77-78.
10. "A Classified List of Articles in Minnesota History Bulletin (Vols. 1-5) and Minnesota History (Vols. 6-10)," 1931, 11 pp.
Excerpt from Index to Minnesota History, Vols. 1-10.
11. "The Newer Americans," Pittsburgh Record, June/July 1932, pp. 63-64.
Describes the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey's special study of southern and eastern European immigrants.
12. "Interpreting Pittsburgh Through Its Past," Pittsburgh Record, Nov./Dec. 1932, pp. 45-57.
Details the work of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey.
13. "Local History and the Local Library," Pennsylvania Library Notes, Jan. 1933, pp. 252-254.
Concerns methods to be used by libraries in collecting local history.
14. "Adam and Eve at Providence," extract from diary of Lucien C. Boynton, communicated by Buck in the Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, Jan. 1934, pp. 13-14.
Lucien Cyrus Boynton (1811-1886) was an Uxbridge, Massachusetts lawyer, whose personal journals cover the years 1835 through 1853 and detail life and conditions in New England, the Middle States, and Virginia. This extract, from November 20, 1850, details a trip to Providence, Rhode Island to see a painting of the Garden of Eden.
15. Review of The Susquehannah County Papers, Julien P. Boyd, editor, in New York History, April 1934, pp. 207-209.

**Publications: Reprints and Booklets,
1910-1934**

1. "Some Materials For The Social History of the Mississippi Valley in the Nineteenth Century," reprinted from the Proceedings, 1910-1911, pp. 139-151.

Discusses the usefulness of various types of primary source materials.
2. "Pioneer Letters of Gershom Flagg," edited by Buck, reprinted from Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, 1910-1912, 47 pp.

Flagg (1792-1857) was an early pioneer of Paddock's Grove, Illinois, arriving there in 1818. His letters cover the period from 1816 through 1836.
3. "The New England Element in Illinois Politics Before 1833," reprinted from the MVHA Proceedings, 1913, pp. 49-61.
4. "Proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference of Historical Societies," reported by Buck, secretary, in the AHA's Annual Report for 1913, 1915, pp. 205-236.

Held December 29, 1913 in Charleston, South Carolina.
5. "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest, 1914-1915," reprinted from MVHR, June 1915, pp. 74-105.

Overview of historical activities in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio.
6. "The Minnesota Historical Society and Its Museum," reprinted from Museum Work, Nov. 1920, pp. 57-62.
7. "Clarence Walworth Alvord, Historian," reprinted from MVHR, Dec. 1928, 18 pp.

Biographical sketch and bibliography of his published works.
8. "The Problem of Adequate Historical Collections," reprinted from Trans-Mississippi West, 1930, pp. 249-256.

Concerns the need to collect ephemera, particularly privately published book, pamphlets, and special publications.

**Publications: Reprints and Booklets,
1910-1934, cont.**

9. "Making a Farm on the Frontier: Extracts from the Diaries of Mitchel Young Jackson," reprinted from Agricultural History, July 1930, pp. 92-120.

Selected diary entries from 1852 through 1857 discussing life in early Minnesota and his claim (1854) on a farm near Stillwater.
10. "The Story of Grand Portage," privately printed for the Cook County (Minnesota) Historical Society, 1931, 16 pp.
11. "Selections from the Journal of Lucien Boynton, 1835-1853," reprinted from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, Oct. 1933, 1934, 54 pp.

See Publications: Articles no. 14 for biographical data on Boynton and content data on the journal.

Buck, Solon Justus (1884-1962). Maps Used in the Publication of The Granger Movement, 1913.

6 items.

Oversized maps from the papers of Solon J. Buck, Minnesota Historical Society superintendent and University of Minnesota history professor from 1914 through 1931. These six outline maps of the United States, each illustrated with Buck's hand-drawn graphics, were used in the publication of his 1913 book, The Granger Movement. Included are:

1. MAP I. Proportion of Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry to Agricultural Population, May 19, 1873.
2. MAP III. Proportion of Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry to Agricultural Population, Oct. 18, 1873.
3. MAP V. Proportion of Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry to Agricultural Population, September 1, 1874.
4. MAP VII. Proportion of Granges to the Patrons of Husbandry to Agricultural Population, November, 1875.
5. MAP IX. Density of Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, Sept. 1, 1874.
6. Proportion of Population Engaged in Agriculture to Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, Sept. 1, 1874.

Consult the card catalog for the location of the main body of Buck's papers.

Cheryl Norenberg Thies
August 1985