



### Report from the Director of Engagement and Special Collections

Kate E. Bradley

From my point of view, the Coolidge Foundation has had a productive, and busy, year.

Cooperation with the State: I am pleased to say our relations with the State seem to be stronger than ever. This year has seen weekly meetings, and when it comes to programming, even more frequent conversations. In fact, we were able to co-sponsor one of the State's events, thus increasing the program's attendance. The Coolidge Holiday Open House, under the jurisdiction of the State, was very well-attended, with CCMF supporting the day in various ways. Working with Bill Jenney is a true pleasure, and I have learned a great deal from his experience. We bounce research questions off each other, and even though the exhibits are completely under the purview of the State, I have been able, on behalf of CCMF, to help in their creation and construction. Together we deal with building issues, and tourist stories. This wonderful collaboration is due in no small part to our mutual addiction to chocolate.

Programs: Presidents' Week this past winter was the second time we've tried to do something of this ilk, and I think it can be judged a success. It is a very difficult time of year to attempt programming in Plymouth, but even with the vagaries of weather, the week went very well. Having the Museum and Education Center open during this week is not a waste since many families stop by as an alternative to winter sports. I truly hope the President's Week activities in Plymouth Notch will continue in the years to come.

Collaborations: I've already mentioned the wonderful partnership with the State, but there are other collaborations that have been effective. Not the least among them is CCMF's work with the Bush Institute. With Trustee Amity Shlaes' help, we have the semifinal economic debates here at the site. This will bring CCMF increased visibility, interest, and hopefully financial return. It is a great deal of work to put on such a program in Plymouth Notch, VT, but the reward is definitely worth it. CCMF has also been collaborating with the Norman Williams Library and Woodstock History Center, both of Woodstock, VT. Together, the three entities have put on successful programs. By combining/sharing our resources, our costs become negligible, and we are able to increase our audience through alternative programming. We also share and compare difficulties in regards to promoting, etc. Having a place to share issues and experiences has been wonderful.

Outreach: A little over a year ago, the Vermont Standard contacted me, asking if I would become a regular contributor to their paper; specifically the Historically Speaking column. Since then I've been submitting a column every few weeks. It is been a true pleasure writing these. While not lengthy, sometimes it is a struggle to write a viable column due to my other duties. I then use what I write as a blog post on [www.calvin-coolidge.org](http://www.calvin-coolidge.org). Of course I then Facebook the page. Speaking of Facebook,

interest has increased dramatically, and I'm happy to report we have over 320 likes. Given that we are not a very well-known group, this number is something to be proud of. I post almost every day to our Facebook page. Posts can include: photos of events, Coolidge quotes, Coolidge news articles, programming information, or just a short update on what is happening on a given day in Plymouth. As a result of the Economic Debates, the Historic Site will now have Wi-Fi throughout the village. This is an incredibly wonderful addition, and will enable those to share the past through modern technology. Great strides have also been made since the release of our new website 11 months ago. Over the past year, I've added well over 210 pages of speeches, dates, information, and events. Some pages needed to simply make the transition from the old website; but in many cases new content was created. Older pages were also edited and updated as needed.

Research: Not a week goes by without some sort of research quest. Some are more basic than others, i.e. "How am I related to Calvin Coolidge," while others are much more detailed and interesting. Each question has its inherent difficulties, but if we are not able to provide the answer ourselves, it is just as important to provide researchers with the location of their information. By working with Bill Jenney, Julie Bartlett-Nelson (Forbes Library), Jerry Wallace, and Jim Cooke, among others, we can seldom not find some sort of answer. It is really such fun chasing down history.

Membership: With huge gratitude to Milt Valera and Phillip Browne of the National Notary Association, we now have 670 new CCMF members from the National Notary Association. This was a membership drive done in collaboration with the NNA; with members given a special \$10 rate. These new members have driven our active members up to almost 950, the most I believe we have ever had. As a result of having more than 600 new names in our database, we are able to reach a far greater, and definitely national, audience than ever before.

Donations: We seem to be on track for a solid year in terms of donations. Sponsorships for the Speaker Series were solid, and although not at last years' level, we got very close. The annual appeal last fall was very successful, and I think we are on track to have another successful annual appeal this fall.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, National Advisory Board, staff, and friends of the Coolidge Foundation. It has been an incredible three years. Starting as an intern in 2010 for the move from the church to new building, and growing with the Foundation has been a pleasure. I've learned a great deal, and can take my experience on to my next step in life. I would like you to know there will always be spot in my heart for the Coolidge Foundation. I want for CCMF to grow and succeed. Even though I will no longer be working for CCMF, I hope to follow the organization's continuous rise; and if there is anything I can do to help, I am more than happy to do so.

Thank You.

**Kate E. Bradley**

Report from the Education Director

July 25, 2013

The Coolidge Foundation has recently received two grant awards. I applied for and received a \$5000 grant from the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation to support and expand Education Outreach programs. Board members from this Foundation came to the Coolidge Site this summer and we had a chance to meet and talk. I appreciate both their connection to our education programs and their financial support.

I also applied for and received a grant of \$1000 from the Vermont Bar Foundation to support civic engagement programs; such as our Constitution Day Program we've held in September. To expand my own knowledge about the U.S. Constitution, I attended a three-day seminar in Montpelier, *Civil Rights in a Constitutional Democracy*, offered by Turning Points in American History. It was a rich opportunity for me to read and discuss important documents in our country's history, to work with teachers on Civics and Constitution topics and helped me further develop program ideas using the excellent *We the People* resources.

On June 18 and 19 I attended the *Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Regions Conference*, held in Pittsburgh. This fully funded opportunity stems from a grant I wrote four years ago to develop programs utilizing primary sources with teachers and students from the Library of Congress web site as well as primary sources in general. Of course the whole Coolidge Historic Site is itself a primary source and the model to *observe, reflect, question* is one we use with students and adults alike. I encourage you explore the rich resources of the Library of Congress at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).

To get ready for the busy spring season at the Coolidge Site, we held our annual Docent Gathering on May 10. Did you know the Coolidge Foundation has 15 volunteer docents? This allows us to have small groups to explore the Coolidge Historic Site, including the new Museum. A recent focus has been learning how to utilize the rich collection of farm tools in the barns to understand how work was done and how it changed over the years.

We always spend time discussing how to fine tune our programs so that the students, their parents, and teachers have a quality History Exploration experience, learning the story of Calvin Coolidge growing up in this late 19<sup>th</sup> century village and his path to the Presidency. 269 students, ranging from Fourth Grade through High School took part in our History Exploration Programs at the site this spring. Another 141 students were reached through Outreach Programs to their schools and 316 students visited last fall for a total of 726 students since I reported in this time last year! Remember that teachers and parents accompany these students so we are also reaching many adults who work with our future scholars.

Speaking of future scholars, I developed economics-themed History Exploration stations in the village for the visiting debaters from the Bush Institute. These include primary sources and docents will cover these stops.

For this year's Fourth of July Program at the Cemetery, I selected parts of Coolidge's *Toleration and Liberalism* speech (October 6, 1925), which were read aloud. This was especially well received with a follow up editorial in the Rutland Herald. Reading portions of Coolidge's speeches is an effective way to familiarize and involve the public with Coolidge's fine writing. Please let me know if you'd like to be a reader at next year's program.

Now that we have a building that can be used year-round, we made a start with February and March programming and we'll have more programs this winter. Please do not hesitate to contact me further with questions, suggestions, or conversation. Thank-you.

Diane Kemble  
Education Director for the Coolidge Foundation