



*Calvin Coolidge*  
CALVIN COOLIDGE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

# The Coolidge Brief

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## Taking Coolidge to America

Do young people know about Calvin Coolidge? That's a question many older Americans ask. Younger generations may learn tangentially about Coolidge in the classroom, but they rarely have the opportunity to experience Coolidge first hand.

To this quandary the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation offers an answer: bring those young people to the Notch. After all, Plymouth Notch, Vermont, the president's birthplace, childhood home and resting place, brings President #30 to life. To see the clapboard houses, the Union Christian Church, the cheese factory and Mrs. Cilly's general store is to remember that as president, and before that as Massachusetts governor or as a young boy in Plymouth, Coolidge stood for so many principles that seem missing in our lives today: humility, persistence, thrift, civility.

Coolidge believed especially in the value of restrained and informed debate, a faith which dated back to his time in Plymouth when as a young man he took part in a town debate about the gold standard. Coolidge later commented on this debate experience saying, "the study I put on this subject well repaid me."

The kind of debate Coolidge described will be the main activity of the Foundation at the Notch this summer. This is our contribution to bringing young people to the Notch. On three dates, July 8, July 10, and August 1, high school students from across America will come to the Notch to debate important policy questions and topics related to presidential decision-making. Helping to make this possible is our partner for a second summer, the Debate Institutes at Dartmouth. The Debate Institutes and their leader Nicole Serrano will bring the debaters over for full days of contests and learning



about President Coolidge. Additionally a second group, home school students from New England, will come to the Notch for a multi-day debate camp that includes competing alongside the Dartmouth campers on August 1. You, as friends of the Coolidge Foundation, are invited to come and judge these debates.

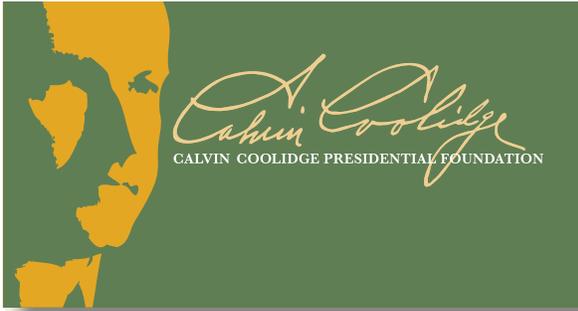
All these groups will be led by Coolidge Foundation staff as well as Gaurav Tiwari and Roberto Salinas León, debate coaches whom you may have already met at the Notch last summer. Coolidge Foundation Education Director Diane Kemble will also educate the students on the ways and beliefs of the Coolidges. In total we will see over 600 young people at the Notch during the spring and summer period, up considerably from last year.

But that's not the only new way young, and for that matter old, will be experiencing Coolidge this summer. Additional events include:

### July 4: Ceremony and Activities

On the Fourth of July, the President's birthday, the National Guard will be laying the ceremonial wreath at the cemetery, always a moving event.

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## *Elevate Your Summer At The Notch*

### *4th of July Festivities*

*Beginning at noon including the Annual Parade and Wreath-Laying at the Coolidge Family Grave Site followed by the public reading of *The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge* in the Union Christian Church at the Notch. Pre-register today to reserve your spot as an official reader!*



### *July 8th, 10th & Aug. 1st*

### *High School Debate*

*The Coolidge Foundation, in partnership with the Debate Institutes at Dartmouth, will host some of the best and brightest high school debaters, including Vermont debaters, at the Notch to debate presidential history and economics. We invite Foundation members and friends to participate in this exciting event as judges. Novice judges are welcome! Pre-register today to reserve your spot as a judge!*



### *August 2nd*

*Plymouth Old Home Day including speaker Reeve Lindbergh at 1:30 p.m., daughter of aviator Charles Lindbergh, and re-enactment of 1923 inauguration at 2:47 p.m. — Coolidge impersonator Jim Cooke will appear.*



### *August 2nd*

*Summer Gala "Under the Tent" featuring speaker former Governor James H. Douglas — tickets required.*



### *August 11th*

*Naturalization ceremony at 1 p.m. at the Notch. Open to the public.*

For all these events, please email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org) or call 802-672-3389

In addition, dozens of readers, including Coolidge impersonator Jim Cooke, radio show host Sue Henry, New York Law School professor David Schoenbrod, biographers George Nash and David Pietrusza, and *National Review* editor Rich Lowry, have already signed up to participate in a marathon reading of the president's autobiography.

You are welcome to join us, and can sign up with Rushad Thomas at [events@calvin-coolidge](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge).

### August 2: Plymouth Old Home Day

To celebrate Old Home Day, the Foundation will host Reeve Lindbergh, the daughter of one of the president's own heroes, Charles Lindbergh, who will be speaking about the Coolidge-Lindbergh family connection. Old Home Day festivities also include a town barbeque and a reenactment of Coolidge's famous 1923 "homestead inaugural."

### August 2: "Under the Tent" Gala

On the night of August 2, former Vermont Governor James H. Douglas will speak at our annual gala on civility, which is also the topic of his forthcoming book.

### August 11: Naturalization Ceremony

On August 11, new Americans from Vermont will be naturalized in a ceremony which visitors are welcome to attend. Jennifer Sayles-Harville, great-granddaughter of President and Grace Coolidge will sing the National Anthem. Coolidge Foundation executive Matt Denhart, who recently completed a book on the value of immigration, will give a talk on Coolidge and immigration.

### All Summer: Civil War Exhibit

All summer, a new exhibit, "The Coolidges, Plymouth, and the Civil War," will be open to the public. When you stop by, see if you can spot Bill Jenney, the prize-winning state curator who made the work possible. Quiz question: what did Coolidge's grandmother write about her son John's attitude toward the confederates?

Our summer debates and programs are the start, but only the start. Years ago, the Foundation determined the need to bring Coolidge to more Americans and established as its mission to "Open the eyes of the world to Calvin Coolidge." That is why we have brought on two new staffers, executive director Matt Denhart and program and editorial associate Rushad Thomas. And that is why we are augmenting our online efforts, to reach people across the country.

Our newly-launched website includes more room for the younger public to join in our online discussion on Coolidge. On the new website, "CoolidgeFoundation.org," visitors can also sign-up to receive our weekly email blast, which already goes out to more than 1,200 subscribers. We've also created a live-feed "Coolidge Cam" on the site to connect everyone to

the Notch, even those who are far away. The Coolidge Foundation is also active on social media and we hope you'll join our discussions on Facebook and Twitter: @CoolidgeClub. On our new YouTube Channel you can view past programs and listen to a recently recorded audio version of Coolidge's *Autobiography*, narrated by Rushad Thomas.

Some of you attended our spring speaker event at Norwich University featuring Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. Others joined us in New York City to help celebrate the release of the \$1 Coolidge Presidential Dollar Coin by the U.S. Mint. Many others, we hope, will come this fall to our post-election Washington budgeting summit, which we are co-hosting with the U.S. Senate Budget Committee. The president nurtured a self-described "obsession" with budgets and his spirit will certainly enliven the conference's discussion of the Harding-Coolidge Budget and Accounting Act of 1921.

Watch this space for more news about plans for the Coolidge Foundation. Support our Foundation dinners in summer and fall. You'll notice our board has updated our name to reflect the mandate established years ago recognizing Coolidge's national role. We are always looking for further ways to share Coolidge, whether through growth in our debate program or through a greater expansion of our scholarship opportunities.

But in the meantime, we pause to exhort you: come to the Notch. As Coolidge said, "There is strength in the hills, if only we will lift our eyes. Remember that nature is your great restorer."

—Amity Shlaes, *Chairman*  
Matthew Denhart, *Executive Director*

## Are You Ready to Judge Debate?

This summer students from the Debate Institutes at Dartmouth will be coming to Plymouth Notch on July 8, July 10 and August 1 to tour the Historic Site, learn about Coolidge and compete in debate. In all, some 225 students from more than 116 high schools, plus China, will attend DDI and debate at the Notch.

## We need your participation to make this event a success!

Don't worry if you've never judged debate before! We will be here to guide you through the process!

**Please email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org) to sign up as a judge for our debate program!**

# The Upcoming Centennial of the First World War 1914 – 1918

With the centennial of the Great War upon us, the time is right to briefly review the history of that conflict, as well as the role of Presidents Harding and Coolidge in dealing with its aftermath.

## Marking a Sad Day for Humankind

This coming June 28 marks the 100th anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir presumptive to the imperial throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg. This tragic, world-changing event took place in faraway Sarajevo, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assassin was Gavrilo Princip, a 19-year old student associated with the nationalist Serbian terrorist group the Black Hand.

In the ensuing crisis, involving all the major powers of Europe, diplomacy failed. On July 28, 1914, one month to the day from the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, with other nations honoring treaty obligations and themselves entering the fray. Come August, armies marched, warships sailed and aircrafts flew off into the blue—and the Four Horsemen commenced their ride, which continued more than four long, bloody years. By the end of the conflict, the old order—“in its sunset [so] fair to see,” as Winston Churchill put it—was gone. A new, unstable and more violent order, one that would plague the 20th Century, had assumed its place. The newly installed Pope Benedict XV would label this war, “the suicide of civilized Europe.”

## The Great War, 1914-1918: A Brief Review

The outbreak of war came as a surprise, “like lightning out of a clear sky.” At the outset, the United States was determined not to be drawn into the Old World’s conflict. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a policy of neutrality towards the Allied Nations (Great Britain, France, and Russia) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire). In their hearts, however, most Americans favored the Allied cause and this sentiment grew ever stronger as the brutal warfare continued.

It was Germany’s decision to revive unrestricted submarine warfare, along with its maneuvering to involve Mexico in a war with the United States, which at last provoked our nation to take up arms. Behind these factors, there was also the growing realization that without our intervention, German militarism might prove triumphant. On April 6, 1917, at President Wilson’s behest, the United States Congress declared war on the German Empire. Americans rallied to the Allied cause with enthusiasm and energy, supporting the war effort with money, supplies, and fighting men. “We were asserting our rights and maintaining our ideals,” as Coolidge later put it. America’s goal was to hasten the end of the war and then participate in fashioning a lasting peace in which democracy would flourish.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand with his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, and their three children.

The American Expeditionary Force, popularly known as the A.E.F., under General John J. Pershing, began to arrive in France in late June of 1917, there to return the favor given our forefathers during the American Revolution. “Lafayette, we are here,” it was proudly proclaimed. American soldiers and sailors fought bravely and with success at Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood, the second Battle of the Somme, Saint-Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and other engagements on land and at sea, providing the needed push for the final victory.

Allied pressure on the battlefield, coupled with a blockade of the enemy’s ports, led to the collapse of the Central Powers. At daybreak, on November 11, 1918, the armistice was signed in the forest of Compiegne and, at 11:00 o’clock that morning, Paris time, the guns went silent along the Western Front: the war to end all wars had ended. The war to make the world safe for democracy was won.

## President Coolidge Recalls That Day

On that memorable day, Calvin Coolidge, who was then serving as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, was vacationing in Maine. Only six days before, the citizens of the Commonwealth had chosen him to be their governor. He was awakened in the middle of the night with the happy news of the signing of the armistice and immediately returned to Boston to join the celebrations. Writing in his *Autobiography*, President Coolidge would recall the strong emotions of that November day:

What the end of the four years of carnage meant those who remember it will never forget and those who do not can never be told. The universal joy, the enormous relief, found expression from all the people in a spontaneous outburst of thanksgiving.

### The Cold, Bleak Statistics of War

The Armistice found 4,000,000 American men under arms, more than one fourth of all men between the ages of 18 and 31. Of that number, 2,000,000 were overseas. Altogether, 4,734,991 men had served, most of them in the Army. Victory had come at a high price. The dead numbered 116,516: battle deaths being 53,402 and those from other causes, such as the deadly Spanish influenza, 63,114. The wounded—men missing limbs, without sight, with bad lungs from gas, suffering from shell shock, and so on—numbered 204,002. Worldwide, the armies of the combatants had suffered total casualties of 37.5 million, with 8.5 million of them killed, including many of the finest and most promising men of their generation. And, of course, millions of civilians had also perished in the carnage.

President Coolidge would later observe: “It is these things”—the dead and maimed, to which must be added wives without husbands, children without fathers, and parents without sons—“that bring to us more emphatically than anything else the bitterness, the suffering, and the devastation of armed conflict.”

### The Immediate Post-War Period, 1919-1920

The years immediately following the war were a chaotic, violent, and stressful time, marked by strikes, a crime wave, and race riots; by prosperity followed by depression; and by political battles over the future of the nation and its role in the world. Notably, on the political front, President Wilson fought without thought of compromise for his League of Nations. Senator Warren G. Harding, soon to be president, joined the fierce battle against the League. Governor Coolidge was initially sympathetic to the League concept, as revealed in his Boston welcoming speech to President Wilson in February 1919, but he never advocated membership in the organization. Later, he concluded that the United States was better off out of the League. This was because of the difficulties in working with the League posed by the President and Senate’s shared responsibilities in foreign affairs and of the divisiveness it would bring into American political life. In March of 1920, the Treaty of Versailles with its League Covenant was defeated in the Senate. After his electoral victory, President Harding proclaimed the League a dead issue.

### The Harding and Coolidge Administrations, 1921-1929

With their call for a return to normalcy—that is, a peacetime domestic environment—the Harding-Coolidge ticket swept the nation on November 2, 1920. The candidates had offered exactly what the American people wanted after the hard and disruptive years of war.

On July 2, 1921 President Harding approved the Knox-Porter Resolution, officially ending the United States’ involvement in the Great War, and peace treaties with the former belligerents followed. In August 1921 Harding also approved legislation creating the Veterans Bureau to provide care for the thousands of wounded and disabled veterans of the Great War. As for the returning soldiers’ demand for a soldiers’ bonus, he strongly opposed the idea on the grounds that the country could ill afford it at the time. As a peace initiative, Harding called the much praised Washington Conference in the fall of 1921, which successfully addressed limiting the naval armaments of the great powers and resolved certain pressing diplomatic problems regarding Asia.

Three years after the war’s end, on Armistice Day 1921, President Harding and Vice President Coolidge presided over the impressive burial ceremony for America’s Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery: an event, perhaps more than any other, symbolizing the conclusion of the Great War for the United States of America. Before his death in August 1923, in another important step to ensure world peace, President Harding would make an appeal for the United States to join the World Court.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife greeting a dignitary in Sarajevo on the day of their assassination.

With his ascension to the presidency, Calvin Coolidge would continue Warren Harding’s work for world peace, with the United States extending its hand in friendship to the nations of the world. While America’s primary mission was seen as providing an example and inspiration to others, there was to be no retreat into isolationism, as some would later claim. Both Presidents recognized the nation’s new premier standing in the world.

President Coolidge supported the Dawes Plan, which was crucial to restoring peace and economic stability to Europe. Like President Harding, Coolidge too urged adherence to the World Court’s protocol, although he was met with bitter opposition from isolationist senators. To help revive world commerce and trade, Coolidge firmly supported the successful efforts to restore the international gold standards, such as settling the war debt in a reasonable, accommoda-

tive, and timely fashion with the debtor nations. Near the end of his administration, Coolidge obtained the ratification of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty, which promised to outlaw war, and as his presidency came to end, there was a revival of the effort, which had lagged since 1926, to bring the nation into the World Court.

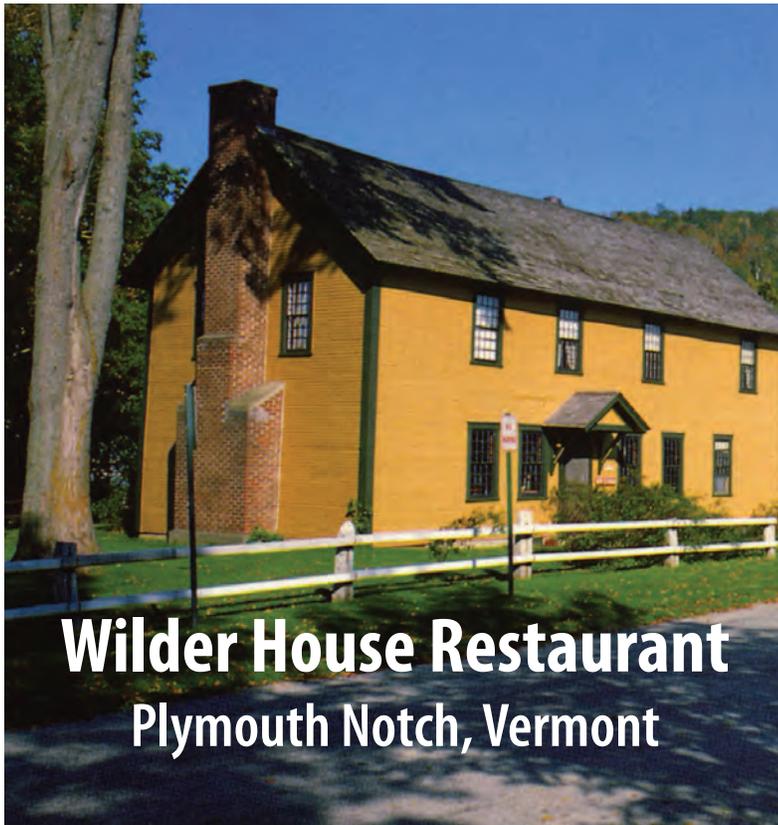
Concerned for the care of wounded and disabled veterans, his administration generously supported programs on their behalf. Coolidge himself had said, "A nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." However, like President Harding, he opposed the Soldiers' Bonus Bill, but not just for budgetary reason. Coolidge thought that "patriotism...bought and paid for is not patriotism." So he vetoed the Bonus Bill in the spring of 1924, but the Congress easily overrode it.

In a tribute to the veterans of the Great War, on Armistice Day 1926 President Coolidge journeyed to Kansas City, Missouri to dedicate the Liberty Memorial, a magnificent, towering monument to those brave fighting men who had served and died for their nation in the Great War. His ties to this heartland Memorial went back to its beginning. In the fall of 1921, while representing President Harding at the American Legion Convention, the honor came to him as vice president of dedicating the memorial site, and three years later in 1924, then as president, he wrote a congratulatory letter to the Memorial Association that was placed in the monument's cornerstone. His 1926 dedication speech was broadcast nationally by radio and was given before a vast crowd, including many local and national leaders.



Finally it should be recalled that Calvin Coolidge was a faithful, committed supporter of the American Legion, once praising the organization in his "Calvin Coolidge Says..." column. He spoke to its national convention as vice president and later as president and he attended its Boston gathering as a former president in 1930. The veterans always greeted him with a warm ovation, knowing him to be their friend. The Legion appealed to him because of its ability to unify men from all walks of life into a great patriotic organ—with each and all simply bearing the title of "American."

—Jerry L. Wallace  
National Advisory Board Member



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*Thanks to all for your support.  
We look forward to another  
great season!*

## Winter to Spring Programs at Plymouth Notch



President's Day Speaker Kevin Ryan.



Participants enjoy historic hats from the Coolidge era.

Snow was piled high around the roadside sign that said "Closed for the Season," but the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center opened for a series of three "winter to spring" programs.

On the Sunday of President's Day weekend, Constitutional scholar Kevin Ryan spoke on Madison's Hell. James Madison, America's fourth president, offered a realistic vision of the political world that gives us insight into contemporary problems. Madison posed a dream of a great empire populated by "mutual guardians of our mutual happiness" against a nightmarish portrait of disunion, tyranny, and subjection. Other presidents mentioned during Mr. Ryan's talk included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and of course, Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge, like Madison, saw the Constitution as the guardian of Americans' individual liberties.

On March 2, we set out to explore How the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site Came to Be. Introduced by Coolidge biographer and Coolidge Foundation chairman, Amity Shlaes, a panel of experts told of the individual and group efforts that preserved the land, buildings, artifacts, and legacy of President Coolidge. Jenny Harville, great-grand-

daughter of President Coolidge, and Mimi Baird, Coolidge Foundation trustee emerita joined John Dumville and William Jenney of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to tell the stories of the unique partnership that created both the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation and the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Many of the stories told of the quiet efforts of the President's son, John Coolidge, to preserve the buildings and land of Plymouth Notch. Photographs and building models added to the presentation.

Hats were the topic of the April 12 program. The photograph of Lincoln's top hat on the cover of Smithsonian magazine was a springboard to finding out more about the changes of hat styles of presidents and the public over the years, and especially in Coolidge's age. Bill Jenney showed us several hats from the collection, including a top hat of Coolidge's. Coolidge carried a carefully measured string with him to buy fashionable hats for his vivacious first lady, Grace. At a time when straw hats were worn only during summer, Coolidge wore his into September, declaring that "Summer isn't over yet." It was enough to cause newspaper articles to be written on the topic. As we viewed some hats with entire parts of birds for decoration, we noted that it was a small group of women who turned the tide against the killing of birds for their feathers, an effort that resulted in the beginning of the National Audubon Society.

On each of these days, the Museum was open and activities available for all ages. Please share your ideas for topics and activities to make use of the new Coolidge Museum and Education Center when the rest of the historic site is closed. We thank the Vermont Bar Foundation for their support in helping us extend our programs, especially in the area of civic education. Each of these programs was filmed by Bruce and Marita Johnson and is available on local public access television. Another new program on Voting Rights/Civil Rights has been developed for use with students.

—Diane Kemble  
Education Director



Governor and Mrs. Coolidge cast their own votes in Northampton for the 1920 national election.

Photo courtesy Forbes Library & Museum



The Vagabonds and the Coolidges outside the family homestead.

## Vagabonds at Plymouth Notch

Each year some 25,000 tourists make their way to the bucolic hamlet of Plymouth Notch, Vermont. The beauty of this mountainous village alone warrants the trip, but the real draw of course is a visit to the historic village where Calvin Coolidge was born, reared and is laid to rest. Curious tourists and illustrious dignitaries alike have made the trip to the Notch over the years. One of the most famous visits came during the Coolidge Presidency when the site played host to a most curious gathering of “Vagabonds.” Those vagabonds, as they referred to themselves, were none other than industrial titans Harvey Firestone, Henry Ford, and famed inventor Thomas Edison.

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the Vagabonds’ historic visit. Their 1924 visit to Plymouth Notch was one stop along their well-publicized peripatetic camping journeys along the Eastern Seaboard. The maven of Ford Motor Company hatched the idea for these trips partially as a marketing tactic to demonstrate the benefits of automobile ownership to the American people. The trips are widely credited with initiating a period of recreational car travel that turned America into a nation of holidaying tourists.

The camping trips began with Edison and Ford in 1914, and continued for the next ten years. One of the most famous installations of their progresses took place in 1918, with nature enthusiast and writer John Burroughs and Ford’s close friend and tire manufacturer Harvey Firestone joining the group.

These travelers rode in style, with a caravan full of assistants and cooks. Their convoy included a staggering 50 vehicles, all Fords, with a fully-stocked kitchen car and a luxurious dining tent. Edison, of course, kept their campsites fully lit with his mobile electric generator. Jacketed waiters served the campers broiled lamb chops, grilled ham, boiled potatoes, corn on the cob, and hot biscuits as they rested at the enormous round table which sat up to 20 people.

The Vagabonds’ journey led them to New England in the summer of 1924, and while they were staying in Ludlow, Vermont, they decided to call on President Coolidge at his family home in nearby Plymouth. The motorists were on their way to Canada, and it was thought that they might ask the President to join them for a portion of their journey, although the President would ultimately remain in Plymouth. The trio admired Coolidge, and when Ford was told that Coolidge had helped his Secret Service agents drive pegs into the ground to secure their tents at the homestead, he said: “Mighty smart man, that man Coolidge.”

On August 19, 1924, the Vagabonds made their pilgrimage to Plymouth Notch. The trio only remained at the Notch for a single hour, but that was long enough for the famous photograph of Ford, Firestone, Edison, and the Coolidge clan to be taken out in front of the clapboard house. The conversation that day was heavy on politics, with the three Vagabonds voicing high praise for Coolidge’s stewardship of the national government. Ford remarked that no issue existed in the presidential campaign “except Coolidge,” and lauded the

President's nomination acceptance speech, describing it as the finest he'd ever heard. Firestone predicted that Coolidge's election would lead to "the greatest era of prosperity the country has ever known," while Edison predicted a Coolidge win in November because of the President's keen "horse sense." "The people think he has more horse sense than anybody else. He don't talk too much [sic]," the Wizard of Menlo Park quipped.

Gifts were also exchanged during the visit. When the President got word that the Vagabonds were on their way he rushed out to the sugar lot on the farm and retrieved a sap bucket that was used by his great-great grandfather, John Coolidge, one of the original settlers of Plymouth Notch. When the Vagabonds arrived the President presented the sap bucket to Henry Ford, who remarked upon receiving it that he appreciated the gift "more than any since I got Mrs. Ford." Ford requested the President's autograph on the bucket, and the President graciously obliged, appending "J. Coolidge, Plymouth" to the bottom of the pail. After all those present added their names to the bucket, President Coolidge then added "Made for and used by John Coolidge, an original settler of Plymouth. He died in 1822. Used also by Calvin Coolidge in the sugar lot when he was a boy at home."

Pictures of this meeting between Coolidge and the Vagabonds received wide distribution through the press that summer. It is now remembered as one of the most famous photographs of the President ever taken at the Notch. No doubt the image of President and Mrs. Coolidge seated with Edison, Firestone, and Ford outside of the family home warmed the hearts of the American people. They could see in that image a symbol of the burgeoning prosperity that spread throughout the country during the Coolidge Presidency. As Garland Tucker put it in his 2010 book *The High Tide of American Conservatism* "Millions of Americans were thought to have been chuckling approvingly over their morning coffee at the sight of 'Ol Silent Cal up on the farm in Vermont with those big-shot millionaires." I couldn't agree more.

—Rushad Thomas  
Program and Editorial Associate



## Celebrating the Coolidge Dollar in New York City

On Monday, May 5, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation hosted a special event to celebrate the release of the 2014 Calvin Coolidge Presidential \$1 Coin from the United States Mint.

The event, which took place at the Union League Club of New York, was held to kick off the Foundation's expanded lecture and event series. The celebration featured remarks by special guests James Grant, editor of *Grant's Interest Rate Observer*, and Steve Forbes, Chairman and Editor-In Chief of *Forbes Media*. Mary Carter also performed Cole Porter's classic tune, "You're the Top." The evening included a birthday cake for the Coolidge Coin and a small display of Coolidge-era coins and currency, prepared by Mark Anderson of the New York Numismatic Club. The event was sponsored by the Lehrman Institute and Marketfield Asset Management.

Matthew Denhart, executive director of the Foundation, said, "President Coolidge maintained a special focus on economic and monetary policy during his years as President. The Coolidge Foundation is therefore thrilled to be in New York to celebrate the release of this wonderful Coolidge Presidential \$1 Coin from the U.S. Mint."

"This is just the beginning for Americans getting to know Coolidge," said Amity Shlaes, Coolidge Foundation chairman and CEO. "Coolidge's fans are growing in number, and we're pleased to see them here and at our debates this summer at Coolidge's birthplace in Plymouth Notch."



## First Annual New York Dinner



Foundation Chair Amity Shlaes interviews former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker

Last November the Coolidge Foundation went on the road to host its first annual New York Dinner. The response was incredible: some 250 Coolidge enthusiasts from across the country packed into the Four Seasons Restaurant to honor America's thirtieth president. Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, served as the dinner's keynote speaker. A Coolidge fan, Volcker remarked that President Coolidge's message allows us to "better understand the forces bearing on the president and Congress almost a century later."

Throughout the evening, other prominent national voices offered toasts to Coolidge, including budget expert and author David Stockman, magazine publisher Steve Forbes, media host Larry Kudlow, Vermont's former governor James Douglas, and scholars George Nash, John Tomasi and Christopher DeMuth.

Adding to the evening's excitement was the presentation of the Foundation's two new writing prizes: the Coolidge Prize for Journalism and the Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth. The \$20,000 Coolidge Prize honors the writer who best captures the spirit and style of the thirtieth president and the ideals President Calvin Coolidge fostered. The Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth is a \$1,500 prize awarded to a Vermont writer under the age of 20 for original writing related to Coolidge.

More than 80 writers submitted columns for consideration in the Coolidge Prize contest, and more than 40 young Vermonters competed for "The Calvin." The submissions were judged by a panel of experts that included, among others, former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels, pollster Doug Schoen, historian Richard Norton Smith, television anchor Trish Regan, columnist Cal Thomas, past Coolidge Foundation board president Mimi Baird, and John Dumville of the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation.

With the audience hanging in suspense, Milt Valera and Christopher Coolidge Jeter – the President's great-grandson – announced Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., columnist and Wall Street Journal editorial board member, as the recipient of the inaugural Coolidge Prize for Journalism. In similarly dramatic

fashion, Catherine Nelson and Coolidge great-granddaughter Jennifer Sayles Harville presented the Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth to Abigail Millard of Perkinsville, Vermont.

"The quality and number of the applications received was astounding," Amity Shlaes, board chairman said, "and I am proud to say Holman Jenkins' writing brilliantly reflects the timeliness of Coolidge's message." Jenkins added, "I am honored to accept this Prize [...] it will help us to remember what Coolidge stood for at a time when we need him most."

The Foundation is grateful to the many Coolidge supporters who turned out in force to make the first annual dinner a big success. We especially thank the Thomas W. Smith Foundation for the establishment of the Coolidge and Calvin prizes. Visit us on YouTube to view a video of last year's dinner. We hope you will join us again for the second annual dinner this autumn. Dinner details will be announced soon on our website: [CoolidgeFoundation.org](http://CoolidgeFoundation.org).

—Matthew Denhart  
Executive Director



Economist and television personality Lawrence Kudlow leads a toast to President Coolidge.

### ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

## We Need Your Help!

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation exists to perpetuate the legacy and ideals of our 30<sup>th</sup> President. Just as President Coolidge would have it, we receive no regular funding from federal or state government, and depend entirely upon the goodwill of people like you who value the things we do. Please look for the donation envelope contained in this newsletter, and please give what you can to support our programs. You can also contribute quickly and easily on the web by logging onto our site at [CoolidgeFoundation.org](http://CoolidgeFoundation.org).

Thank you so much for your support today!

# President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site's New Exhibit Commemorates the American Civil War

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site announces the May 24th opening of its new exhibit "The Coolidges, Plymouth, and the Civil War." Designated a "Top 10 Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Event," the exhibit examines the Civil War from the perspective of the Coolidge family and their neighbors, many with sons on the front lines serving as Union soldiers.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the exhibit offers first-person accounts told with period letters, photographs, and personal items on loan from private and public collections. The visually dynamic exhibit reveals President Coolidge's life-long interest in the subject.

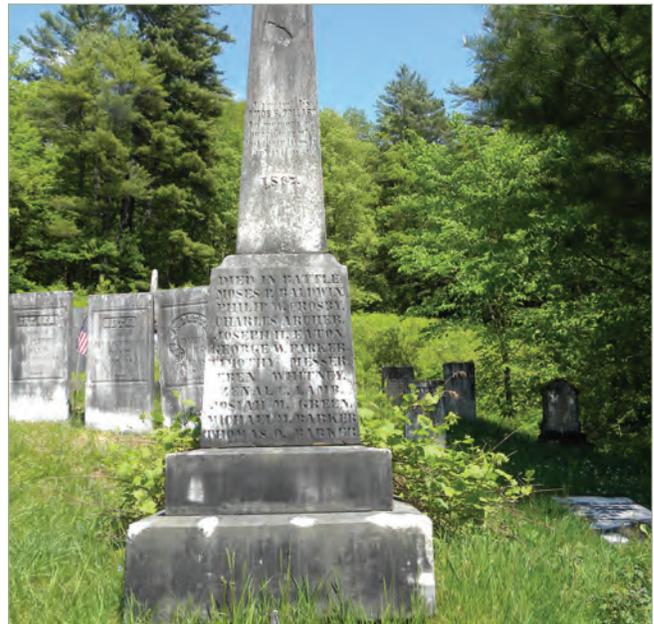
The exhibit was designed by GVH Studios of Bennington, Vermont, and is funded through the generous support of the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation and a private donation.

New this year, a Civil War-based lecture series will be held at the Site, hosted by The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation:

**June 28:** "Civil War Day at The Notch." Visitors can step back in time and meet soldiers and civilians portrayed by the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors. Lynn Sawyer, who specializes in 19th-century clothing, will be a special guest.

**July 6:** Noted historian and author Howard Coffin speaks about life in Plymouth during the Civil War.

**August 9:** David Book gives a first person performance entitled, "A High Price to Pay, A Heavy Burden to Bear: One Family's Civil War Story." The Vermont Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau Program will generously be sponsoring both these dynamic speakers.



**September 20:** Laura Trieschmann, Director of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, presents a program about the activities of the United States Colored Troops and how two of Plymouth's own teachers were charged with leading these contraband soldiers.

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site is open daily May 24 – October 19 from 9:30am to 5:00pm. For further information, contact the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 802-672-3773, or visit [historicsites.vermont.gov](http://historicsites.vermont.gov). Be part of the conversation and like the Vermont State Historic Sites on Facebook.

—William W. Jenney  
Regional Historic Site Administrator

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## Coolidge Foundation Mural at Vermont History Expo

Muralist Terry Sylvester of Brattleboro has brought the iconic photo of Edison's, Ford's and Firestone's Plymouth visit to life for the 2014 Vermont History Expo (June 21 and 22). The life size mural, painted in shades of black, white, and gray, invites the viewer in to "join the conversation" and think about the changes in technology of the 20's and the changes today, all brought about by the creative process. A chair will be provided and photos encouraged.

In this photo taken 90 years ago in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, Thomas Edison, who is deaf, and Grace Coolidge, teacher of the deaf, lean in towards each other. President Coolidge is flanked by Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford and is signing a sap bucket for Henry Ford's Wayside Inn. Coolidge's father looks on proudly. One wonders what young Russell Firestone remembered of August 19, 1924.

Thomas Alva Edison contributed inventions such as the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera, as well as improving the telegraph and telephone. In his 84 years, he acquired an astounding 1,093 patents. Aside from being an inventor, Edison was a successful manufacturer and businessman, marketing his inventions to the public.

Thomas Edison was Henry Ford's hero. In 1896, shortly after building his quadricycle, Henry Ford had the chance to meet the famous inventor at a convention in New York. Edison, who was convinced the future lay in electric powered

cars, encouraged Ford to "keep at it." The inventors forged a friendship that lasted their whole lives.

Harvey Firestone began to manufacture rubber tires in 1896 and Henry Ford placed his first order for tires from Firestone in 1905. The camping trip was one of many that automobile manufacturer Henry Ford, Firestone, and inventor Thomas Edison took between 1916 and 1924.

The commissioning of this mural was supported by a grant from the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation. Over the summer and fall, the mural will be in the Schoolhouse, just down the road from the Coolidge Homestead where the photo was taken. After that, it will be downstairs in the Coolidge Classroom in the Museum and Education Center, so the mural will be available for many visitors, including the hundreds of students that visit the site each year with their teachers. Artist Terry Sylvester is entering the Peace Corps and is off to Moldova in June.

The mural debuted at the Vermont History Expo: *Artists & Artisans: Vermont's Creative Heritage*, held June 21 and 22, at the World's Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, Vermont. Over 150 history and heritage organizations offered fascinating exhibits sharing community history from all over the state. Artists, artisans, musicians, authors, crafters, and genealogists complete this history-filled heritage extravaganza!

—Diane Kemble  
Education Director

**CALVIN COOLIDGE,**  
**Attorney-at-Law. Notary Public.**  
25 Main Street, Masonic Building, NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

## Coolidge's Legacy: A National Treasure For America's Notaries

First-time visitors to the National Notary Association's headquarters quickly discover the NNA's reverence for the 30th President of the United States.

Front pages of American newspapers printed in August 1923 are prominently hung throughout the building. Those aged news reports announce Vice President Calvin Coolidge's assumption of the office of Chief Executive upon the sudden death of President Warren Harding. Those unfamiliar with the NNA tend to attribute this curious attention to the fact that Coolidge was the only President ever sworn in by a Notary.

While it is an intriguing footnote, it is not the reason that Notaries celebrate him. Instead, it's because of his remarkable character, objectivity and leadership. His ideals underscore the immense power and importance of Notaries as impartial witnesses, and his legacy embodies the best traditions of integrity and public service — traditions every public official in the nation, at every level, should emulate.

Particularly, it is the quality of impartiality that most endears Calvin Coolidge to American Notaries, who themselves must abide by objectivity, fairness and neutrality in their performance of their official duties. And it was his impartiality and his commitment to do right by *all* Americans — not just those who sided with him and supported his policies — that made him one of the White House's earliest and most outspoken proponents of women's and minority rights. It also led him to an ongoing dialogue with individuals of every political party, to freely adopt and give credit to their ideas, and even to appoint them to powerful positions.

President Coolidge's approach and example should serve as a beacon for restoring trust in selfless public service — the very foundation of our democracy. It is also the way for any person in authority to deal with subordinates, for citizens to deal with each other, and to restore much-needed civility to our national political life.

Notaries are drawn to Coolidge's integrity, his humility, his common touch, his love of family, his inclination to surrender the spotlight to others, and perhaps also to the fact that his role in American life, like their own, has long been underestimated and misunderstood.

It is significant that our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, thought so highly of Coolidge that he hung his portrait in the White House to inspire him to uphold the highest standards of leadership.

Because the National Notary Association, its membership, and Notaries across America regard Coolidge's legacy as a national treasure, our philanthropic arm — the National Notary Foundation — established a Coolidge Notary Memorial Fund to support the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation. And last year nearly 700 NNA members availed themselves to the valuable benefits of membership in the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation.

America's 4 million Notaries share a special pride in their unique connection to President Coolidge, the White House, and the most powerful office for democracy and freedom in the world.

All Americans may profit by studying the life and values of Calvin Coolidge. The lessons of his life apply to every one of us.

—Milt Valera

*Chairman of the National Notary Association  
Member, Coolidge Foundation Board of Trustees*

## Coolidge Prize at Vermont History Day

Congratulations to Jenna Taylor and Vasiliki Anemikos, winners of the 2014 Coolidge Foundation History Prize. Pictured below with Diane Kemble and Matt Denhart, Jenna and Vasiliki are students at Milton High School and qualified with their history website for National History Day.

The Coolidge Foundation's annual History Day Prize is made possible thanks to the generosity of Mimi Baird. Thanks to Mimi as well as our good friends at the Vermont Historical Society for hosting such a wonderful event.

In addition to presenting the Coolidge Prize, Diane and Matt also helped judge student entries at History Day. Other Coolidge Foundation friends also served as judges, including longtime Foundation executive director Cyndy Bittinger, as well as Bill Jenney and John Dumville from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.



# Governor Peter Shumlin Helps Launch 2014 Speaker Series

The Coolidge Foundation kicked off its national 2014 speaker series on April 8 with a program featuring remarks by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. The program, “What Ails Vermont - Is There a Cure to the Drug Epidemic?” was held in partnership with Norwich University and addressed the state-wide and national issue of opiate addiction.

Coolidge Foundation executive director Matthew Denhart opened the event with an introduction outlining the challenges Americans faced with substance abuse during Coolidge’s own era, the era of Prohibition. Governor Shumlin then spoke about the threat opiate addiction poses to Vermont today, saying: “I believe that’s the one thing that could undermine that quality of life, could take it from us, could destroy it.” Shumlin outlined Vermont’s efforts to push back against the opiate problem through increased prevention efforts and new rehabilitation strategies. Particularly important, Shumlin said, is making rehabilitation programs available to addicts when they hit “rock bottom” and need them the most, rather than simply keeping such people in prison.

Following Governor Shumlin’s remarks, a panel of experts offered additional perspectives and engaged the audience in a community forum on the issue. Foundation trustee Sarwar Kashmeri moderated, and panelists included Dr. Harry Chen, the state’s health commissioner, Col. Thomas L’Esperance, director of the Vermont State Police, Dr. David Orrick and Dr. Max Schlueter. Many audience members posed questions to the experts or shared their own experiences working to help



Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin speaking at our event on the state’s substance abuse challenges.

others overcome addiction. A reception concluded the event, allowing for informal discussion to continue over light refreshments.

The event received widespread media coverage across the state with video footage appearing on multiple evening newscasts. Through its speaker series the Coolidge Foundation is proud to offer a forum for dialogue on many issues, including even difficult issues like substance abuse. Thank you to all who joined us for this discussion, and we hope you will come again to future speaker series events.

—Matthew Denhart  
Executive Director

## 2013 - 2014 DONATIONS

We thank all our friends for their loyal support and for making the Foundation’s year such a resounding success. If your name has been inadvertently omitted from this list or you find an error, we sincerely apologize. Please bring corrections to the attention of Rushad Thomas at (802) 672-3389.

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“If I had permitted my failures, or what seemed to me at the time a lack of success, to discourage me, I cannot see any way in which I would ever have made progress.”

—Calvin Coolidge

  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

1. This year's temporary exhibit in the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center features a glimpse into the world of Plymouth Notch during the Civil War. It is a fantastic exhibit!
2. The U.S. Census recorded a population of 482 people in the town of Plymouth, VT in 1910.
3. June 2, 2014 marked the 90th anniversary of President Coolidge's signing of the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born within the United States.
4. Calvin Coolidge is the first president to be sworn into office by another president, William Howard Taft, who was Chief Justice of the United States from 1921 to 1930, and presided at Coolidge's second inauguration on March 4, 1925.
5. In 1931 Grace Coolidge was voted one of America's twelve greatest living women.
6. Coolidge was the only president to have his image on a coin while living. He was featured on the 1926 sesquicentennial half dollar, Washington to Coolidge.

*And the rest is history...*